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Vol. I

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SMART & CO., THE BOY PEDDLERS.

By PETER PAD.



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SMARI THE BOY PEDDLERS.

By PETER PAD,

Author of "The Shortys Out Fishing," "Sam." "The Funny Four," "Joe Junk the Whaler," "Bob Rollick, the Yankee Notion Drummer," "The Shortys Married and Settled Down," "Bob Rollick; or, What Was he Born For?" "Ebenezer Crow," "Stump; or, Little, but Oh, My!" "Chips and Chin-Chin," "Stuttering Sam." "Tommy Bounce," "Tom, Dick, and the ---," "Shorty; or, Kicked Into Good Luck," "Shorty in Search of His Dad," "Tommy Dodd," "The Shortys' Trip Around the World," "Tumbling Tim," "Boar 1ing-School," "The Shortys Out for Fun," "The Shortys Out Gunning," "The Shortys' Farming," "Behind the Scenes; or, Out With a New York Combination." "Sam Spry, the New York Drummer," "The Shortys' Country Store," "Joseph Jump and His Old Blind Nag," "Those Quiet Twins," "A Rolling Stone; or, Jack Ready's Life of Fun," Etc., Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER I.

SAM SMART was all that his name indicated, clever and chipper, saucy and shrewd, pert and popular.

He was the senior partner of the firm of Smart & Co., dealers in notions, general merchandise, and anything likely to attract the rustic mind.

There were two partners in the firm, though you might, perhaps, call it three, but Sam was the leading spirit, and the chief mover in all the business, and the fun, too, that the house encountered.

Peter Pocket was his associate in business, both being young fellows full of life and enterprise, ready to make an honest dollar whenever they saw a good chance.

Another member of the firm, or of the combination, it might be better to say, was a big, solemn visaged darky, who rejoiced in as many names as the eldest son of a great house.

His parents were of a religious turn of mind, and accordingly, when he arrived upon this planet, he was forthwith christened Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham Isaac Moses Glory Hallelujah Smith, and it didn't kill him either.

In fact, he rather seemed to thrive on it, and get fatter and fatter every year until now, at the age of forty, he was as round as a tub, and had the appetite of a horse.

He had a son, a comical little coon of fifteen, traveled with Smart & Co., the father pocketing the wages of both.

Solomon, or Sol, as the boy was generally called, was as happy looking as his father was solemn, and was forever getting into mischief, and being brought to account by his parent.

Jeremiah John, as he was called, the boys, having too little spare time to give him all of his names, was a good man to work, except at campinclination, it was a hard matter to say which it was, forbade him to do anything except attend to religious duties.

Smart & Co. traveled around the country in most elaborate style, driving a four-in-hand team attached to a decidedly gorgeous wagon, a cross between a circus chariot and the old fashioned peddler's cart of our boyish days.

It had two seats in front, on one of which sat | stragglers came out to look at it. the driver, and another behind where Jeremiah John, dressed in a gorgeous livery, sat and blew a big brass trumpet when the establishment was passing through a town.

Behind him, again, on a seat facing the wrong way, sat Solomon, distributing circulars and saying funny things to the crowd.

The gilded chariot was so arranged that a platform could be let down behind, and on this a sort of variety performance was given every

night for the purpose of attracting crowds and a timid female, as she made a bolt for the house. then selling them one thing and another.

Owing to the lack of room in the interior of the wagon, only a limited supply of goods was carried, but Sam Sharp got over this difficulty by having his things shipped in varying quantities to different points along the line of his route, stopping to get them as they were needed.

Sam and Peter had started out with a great flourish of trumpets, the team consisting of four thorough-breds, which attracted the attention of all hands.

An unlucky horse trade, indulged in by Sam, resulted in having, as the polers, anything but mettled steeds.

When we come upon our young friends, just entering the country town of Squash Corners, we see the two leaders, splendid horses by the way, followed by the most strangely assorted pair of brutes ever seen.

One was a big lop-eared mule, small and cranky and as homely as possible, while the other was a big, ungainly, broken-down nag, with a big head, big feet, a wall eye, and a temper as uneven as a rail fence.

All four of the trotters were decked out with the most gorgeous harness, however, all silver and gold, russet leather, fluttering streamers, giddy plumes, and the like, which made the polers look more ridiculous than ever.

Under the wagon, being also a part of the esthough he seemed much younger, and he, too, tablishment, ran a mongrel dog of no particular variety, barking and yelping and getting into no end of a stew.

This was Moses, the trick dog, watch dog and general nuisance dog of the firm, and in getting him Sam had been stuck as badly as in his purchase of pole horses.

Here they come, however, with a rush and a clatter, the gaudily painted wagon with "Smart & Co." painted on the dash-board, Sam driving; meeting times, and then his conscience, or his Peter sitting by his side with folded arms; Jeremiah John with his cocked hat and stunning livery, blowing his trumpet; little Sol behind, scatter- invited free, front seats extra to babies and bald ing handbills and dodgers by the score, and last- heads. ly Moses under the wagon yelping like all possessed.

As this striking turnout comes into the town all the old farmers, clerks in the stores, postoffice loafers, girls, boys, summer boarders and every known tongue.

"What's that 'ere thing, a surkis?" "Wall, it don't look like a funeral, duz it?" "Look at that fat nigger on the box. Wonder if he's alive?"

"Reckon they got bit on them hind hosses." "Oh, git eout! That's done a puppus, jest for show. The leaders is all that's anny account."

"Tararum!" went the bugle at Jeremiah John's mouth. "Oh, Lor'! suthin's busted, I vow!" shrieked 'see these famous artists.

"Whoa, mule! Come around there," shouted Sam, handling the reins like a Jehu.

The cavalcade stopped in front of the Metropolitan Hotel, as the tavern was called, and Sam, standing on the box, said in a loud voice:

"Feliow citizens, the world famed firm of Smart & Co., is now with you and intends to remain till every man, woman and child in 19 has bought something.

"We sell all sorts of housekeeping goods, from a clotheswringer to a seven and a half octave grand piano, and give a testimonial signed by the President of the United States that all our goods are genuine.

"In the way of crockery we have everything, from a two cent tea cup to the elegant dinner set of one thousand pieces, bought by us from the late emperor of Siam at less than cost. Note our monogram stamped on every piece.

"We have medicines to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to and some that she isn't. Headache, ear-ache, stomach-ache, heart-ache, want of breath, want of money, big head, no I ad dead head, sore head, warts, bunions and ens cured free of charge after purchasing our brated remedies.

"If any lady wants a silk dress she can have it_by getting it of us at a low figure, to suit her own figure, and set all her neighbors crazy with envy and send 'em to us to buy something else.

"We will take rags, ladies and gentlemen, in exchange for pots, pans, kettles and other useful utensils. White rags, colored rags, black and tan rags, mulatto, Chinese, Indian, Malay, or any other kind of rags, with or without bricks, flatirons and lead pipe put in to make 'em weigh more. We can use anything, and the more we get the more we want.

"Walk up, crawl up, dance up, anyway to get up, only keep a walking, and come and attend our grand evening, moonlight, gas-light, electric light, sale, and listen to the elegant classic concert given before every sale, and to which all are

"Come and see the one and only Sam Smart, the great comic, sensational and sentimental balladist, in his lightning change act, making faces in six different languages, and whistling in

"Wait for the renowned Peter Pocket, the electric salesman and manipulater of coin, changing money in your pocket to his own quicker than a wink, and all for one price of admission, ladies and children extra.

"Come and see the great negro dialect comedian and dancer, Jeremiah John Joseph et cetera Smith, in his camp-meeting jubilee songs, assisted by his talented son, little Solomon, the cutest nigger in existence, the only chance to

"Remember, ladies and gentlemen, the sale will take place this evening, preceded by the funniest entertainment ever seen on or off the stage, and nothing to pay for it. Solomon, hand around the circulars. Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham Isaac Moses Glory Hallelujah Smith, Esquire, leader of the band, please give us a selection on the bugle."

That concluded Sam's speech, and he sat down amid impressive silence, while the fat coon made the bugle speak, and Solomon gave everybody a circular, whether they wanted them or not.

The crowd got on to Jeremiah John's bugle

playing, and they wanted more of it.

"Don't tire the poor man out," said Sam. "Don't you see he's black in the face now from playing so much?"

Then the crowd snorted, for Jeremiah was the blackest coon they had ever seen, and made all

other darkies look faded.

"Remember now, this evening, right here, the sale will take place," continued Sam. "This is the great opportunity of your lives. The celebrated trick dog Moses will be introduced, together with all the attractions.

Then Sam drove around to the hotel barn, put up his horses and the mule, and all hands went into the hotel where they found a crowd await-

ing them.

"Be you Smart?" said a lanky individual, coming up to Sam.

"Yes, sir, I'm as smart as they make em; short, sharp, smart and seventeen, four years ago next year after Christmas."

to know?"

"Yes, sir, I'm Sam Smart and the company and the wagon and the mule and the dog under the wagon and the whole business."

"Wall, then, whar's yer license fur peddlin'? I'm sheriff o' this taown, an' I got to look right smart arter yew fellers."

"All right, sir, quite proper, sir, here you are, sir, all made out legal and as straight as a house," and Sam produced his peddler's license.

"Hm! that seems c'rect 'nuff," growled the sheriff, who had hoped to get a nice little fee out of Sam. "Yew give a show, I understand?"

"Yes, sir, and the best you ever saw for the money; no stale gags, no old songs, no resurrected snaps, but all new and fresh."

"H'm! wall, we charge ten dollars license fur shows o' that kind," said the countryman, think-

ing he had Sam by the wool.

"Yes, sir, exactly so, sir, where there is a charge of admission, sir, but this show is free, and consequently there is no fee. Go study up, daddy, before you try to squeeze an X out of Sam Smart. You'll take water, won't you? Ah, I thought so. Better put in a little salt; you need it. You won't keep very long if you don't."

Away went Mr. Sheriff, sadly disappointed at not getting his little fee, while the crowd laughed to split at Sam's clever way of disposing of him.

During the afternoon Peter rode around town on the mule, and scattered hand bills in every | they called for more of the same sort. house within two miles, while Sam was getting ready for the evening.

Just before supper Jeremiah John came to the senior member of the firm, and said gravely:

"I'se very sorry, boss, but I kean't wo'k dis ebenin' no way. Dis am pra'r meeting night, an' I'se got ter tend to my 'ligious duties, sah."

chokers, long black coats, thump the desk, howl my mouth open so long for fear of catching cold, like an army of cats, and then go home and abuse the children. Do you go to the Baptist church, Jeremiah John?"

"No, sah, I'se Mefodis', I is."

"Well, this is Baptist prayer meeting night

and you can't go."

"A' right, sah," muttered the coon, somewhat | nalia, and began his act. disappointed, "den I stay to home. Ef dere's meetin' to-morrer, I'se got ter go it dough, self on all fours at the top, and then came down shuah's yo' bo'n."

"All right, Jeremiah John Joseph, but we'd

better wait till to-morrow comes."

That coon was always on the look out for campmeetings and other religious gatherings, being no less devout than he was anxious to get all the holidays he could.

Evening came at last, and the big wagon was driven ou' into the square, the tail-board or back down, while Sam, stepping forward, said: platform let down, and the fun began.

Half a dozen flaming gasoline lights illumined best advantage.

Not more than half a crowd had collected, but Sam knew that more would come after the show

began. listen to the sweet warblings of the African it in half a shake. Did I hear some one speak? nightingale," began Sam, and the coon mounted | Ah, come right up, my boy." the platform by a short step-ladder, sat down on a three-legged stool and got to work.

He was dressed in a white suit, with red braid I the lamps.

an inch wide, and red buttons as big as a dollar, wore a white plug hat and a red necktie, and had a banjo.

He looked more as if he was running a funeral than a minstrel show, but he whanged away on that banjo in a way to set the feet of all hands going in the liveliest fashion.

After playing a few jolly airs he started singing a roaring jubilee hymn that awoke the

echoes for a mile around.

When he had sung one or two pieces the little coon Solomon suddenly jumped up on the platform, dressed in the same fashion as his dad and carrying a banjo.

"Good ebenin', fader," he said, sitting on a

stool. "How you feel?"

"Bery well, Solomon. How you feel?"

"Like a clock, fader." "How am dat?"

"All wound up." " Den let her run."

Thus admonished, Sol picked away on his banjo like a veteran, Jeremiah keeping time with him and playing an accompaniment.

The crowd had increased greatly by this time, and stood gaping at the two niggers, the wagon, the lights and the mules, as though they meant

to swallow them. "Friends and fellow-citizens," said Sam, jumping on to the platform, the two coons letting up on their music, "I now have the pleasure of introducing a song of my own composition, sung before all the leatherheads of Europe and the deadheads of this country. Now, my sun-burn-"Wall, be you Smart & Co., that's what I want ed friends, if you will give me a few chords I'll give the crowd a few lines. Let her go, Gallagher!"

Then in a loud, but by no means unmusical

voice, Samsang the following:

"Kind friends, if you'll listen to me I'll give you a bit of advice-If you're thinking of going on a spree, Or indulging in any small vice, If you've made up your mind to be mean, Or on some other man vent your spicen, Don't do it, don't do it, Just take my advice and don't do it.

"If in business you're making a start, And want to get on in life's race, You may think it clever and smart To push some one out of his place, Or think that to lie and to steal Is considered about the square deal-Don't do it, don't do it, If you want to be solld don't do it.

"You may think of taking a wife, A partner in pleasure and pain, But you're given to wrangling and strife, And care less for love than for gain; You only want glitter and show, Big rackets and all that, you know-Don't do it, don't do it, If you're really in love don't do it."

This effusion tickled the crowd mightily, and

"I've got about a thousand songs that I could sing for you, fellow chicken stealers," said Sam, "but I don't know where to begin, and while I'm trying to think, my pariner, Mr. Peter Pocket, will introduce the trained dog Moses for your edification."

"Now, Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham, ex-"Prayer meeting, eh?" said Sam. "White cuse me for not saying the rest, but I can't keep will you please sit back a trifle while Mr. Pocket and Moses give their part of the entertainment."

Peter then lifted the mongrel pup upon the platform, got a barrel, some paper hoops, a little chair and table, a ladder, and other parapher-

First, Moses climbed a ladder, balanced him-

head first.

Then he jumped through paper hoops, walked on his hind legs, sat up and held a pipe in his mouth, sat in a chair in front of a table and had dinner, walked on a rolling barrel and performed various other tricks.

When he had gone through with all he knew, Peter gave him a lump of sugar and litted him

"Now, then, kind friends, I wish first to call your attention to our lightning toothache cure. the scene, and showed off the performance to the It relieves the worst pain instantly, and is a permanent remedy for all troubles with the jaw. Bring your mothers-in-law around, ladies and gents, and test this wonderful cure.

"Anybody got a toothache they want cured? Now, then, ladies and gentlemen, we will Step right up and don't be frightened. I'll cure

> "I've got a toot what jumps like the mischief," piped up a small boy, standing in the glare of

"Aha, I thought so," said Sam, taking a small bottle out of a bag he now produced. "Come right up here, my son."

"Begob, if he's your son, ye must hev med the most av yer toime," chimed in a big Irishman who stood near.

The boy climbed upon the stand and Sam

shoved a lot of stuff into his mouth.

"How's that?" he asked.

"Oh! it's greasy, and it-wow! ouch! aha, ha-ha, wow!" and the boy began to yell and hop around like a mad Indian.

"You've gin him corn salve, boss," cried Solomon, with a grin. "Dat's wha' yo' got in dat

bottle."

"Corn salve, eh?" returned Sam, giving the boy a shake. "So I have. Well, that's all right. The root of his tooth goes down to his toes, and that's the only stuff that will reach it."

The shaking Sam gave the youth made him fire out what he had taken, and he began wiping

his eyes with his shirt sleeve. "Toothache any better now?" said Sam, as he quickly stuck a bit of cotton into the lad's mouth.

"Yes'r, it's all gone."

"That's the wonderful power of my remedies," said Sam, volubly. "Ten cents a bottle for my toothache cure; reach the worst case ever known; used equally well for a corn eradicator, hair tonic, tooth wash or wart destroyer. Here you are now, a dime a bottle and a cake of soap thrown in."

Half a dozen women purchased a bottle each, and then Sam cleared out twenty more in a

quarter that many minutes.

After this Jeremiah John played on the banjo and sang, and then Sam opened another budget of wares.

"Fine, sweet-scented toilet-soap, ladies, made of pure olive oil, attar of rose and lemon juice, the nicest article you ever saw in all your life.

"This soap is good for sailors because, when shipwrecked, they can wash themselves ashore; it's good for farmers because it beats all others that turn up and cabbages the biscuit, so let us have some to remove the reddish tint on our faces and squash all our rivals.

"Policemen like it because it's always on the beat, it coppers the dust, arrests dirt, runs in soiled clothes, can be sold to clubs, is a peeler for cleaning things and holds a high station.

"Soldiers like it because the charge is light, the grade is uniform and it routs the spots. Dairy-maids love it because it is the cream of soaps, stands within the pale of good things, is just the cheese and the cat'll not eat it. Step up, all hands, and purchase. Three cakes for a quarter and a ticket for half a dozen imperial photographs thrown in."

Sam's numerous puns, ready wit, easy ways and his quickness to catch the eye of a customer made that soap go like wildfire.

Peter was kept busy making change, while Sam handed out the packages, Jeremiah playing softly, meanwhile, on the banjo.

The quarters came rattling in like corn from a patent sheller, and before long the soap was exhausted.

"Don't be alarmed, ladies," cried Sam. "We will have a fresh invoice of this soap to-morrow, and before I leave town everybody will have a cake. If I can't sell it I'll give it away, because I'm bound to introduce it."

"Ain't yer goin' to give us some more banjo playin'?" asked one old skinflint, who hadn't put his hand in his pocket once since Sam started.

"Yes, sir, directly. I've got just the thing you want. Peter, bring me out some of those muzzles, large size, to fit this fellow's jaw, strong, too, for nothing else will keep it shut."

There was a yell at this, and the man felt mad enough to kick himself into a sieve.

He slank away, and Sam, who had been fishing around in the wagon, now set off on a fresh tack.

"Here's your only genuine double-elastic, never-give-out, suspender, brace, beit and pocket gymnasium combined," he shouted out.

"Hook one end to the wall, and develop your muscle, use it as a baby jumper, sling for shoeing oxen, patent door fastener or ordinary suspender. Never wears out, always useful, and as cheap as dirt, cheaper than some dirt, building ! lots in New York, for instance.

"Buy a pair of these braces, and you'll never be round shouldered, or have to hump to get through your work. Used equally well as a corset or bustle. Worn one pair for five years myself. Wish they didn't last so long. Could sell more of 'em. Who'll have the next? Quarter a pair, and a pack of playing cards given away to

each customer." The suspenders went like everything else, and one would have thought that the men in that section had never worn such things before, by the way they bought.

It was Sam's glib tongue and keen eye that

did it.

He would spot an irresolute buyer far off, lure him up with a wink or a joke, clap the article into his hands, and yank the quarter from him almost before he knew it.

"Now, my African warblers and banjo jugglers, just knock a few more tunes out of your Eolian, or rather, Ethiopian harps," he presently rattled away, "and then, if I've any voice left, I'll sing something appropriate to the occasion."

The clever rascal knew that he must keep the crowd amused, that newcomers were constantly dropping in and that they must be tickled a bit

to make them buy.

The two coons played a duet and executed a plantation dance while Sam and Peter played, the crowd just gaping in wonder.

Then Sam sang one of his topical songs, of which he had a large stock, and repeated his first

for the benefit of the newcomers. Jeremiah then tooted a grand march on the cornet, and Sam sold collar buttons, walking canes, silk umbrellas and porous plasters while

he was doing it! Finally the crowd began to thin out and then Sam shut up shop, put away his goods, closed the wagon, extinguished the lights and drove in-

to the hotel yard. The coons slept with the stablemen, and the

two partners had a big double-bedded room on the second floor all to themselves.

"Well, Petey, we struck a gold mine to-night," said Sam as he and his chum sat, partly undrassed, on the edges of their respective beds, smoking a couple of good cigars.

"Yes, we hit 'em hard. The show took, and I

never saw you rattle things off so fast." "We'll hit 'em again to-morrow night, pardygive 'em something new and sell a different line of goods. The place is good for the rest of the jiffy.

week, and Saturday night will be a big 'un." The next morning Sam arose with the sun,

ready for another day's business. After breakfast he was standing on the hotel piazza, smoking a cigar and glancing carelessly

about. Presently along came Peter with a piece of away.

meat for the dog. "Where's Mose?" he asked. "Here's his

breakfast."

"Let me have it," said Sam, with a grin, as an old hayseeder came out of the house.

A big pin, slightly bent, served to hook the meat to the coat-tails of the farmer as he stepped off the stoop.

"Here, Mose!" called Sam, whistling for the around her and edging away.

dog.

In a few seconds he came flying around the corner of the house as the granger started up the road.

"Take him, boy," hissed Sam, pointing to the meat.

Mose made a grab for the meat but did not succeed in getting it loose.

"Jewhittaker! what's that?" cried the farmer, turning around. "Get eout, yew brute."

Mose jumped back, and the farmer went on. The meat was in sight again, and Mose made a dash for it.

"Gret snakes! the critter's mad, I swan!"

gasped Rusticity.

Then he hooked it with Moses after him, the poor brute being determined to have that hunk of meat.

"Wow-wow!" he remarked, as he put after

the farmer.

The granger turned his head, saw the dog following and ran faster than before.

Poor Moses saw that he would lose his meat if he didn't look out and he redoubled his efforts. He gave a bound, caught the meat in his jaws and gave it a yank.

Away went the pin and Moses had his meat, being no longer interested in the farmer's move-

ments. The latter, however, never stopped to see whether Moses was still coming, but bolted

around a turn in the road at full speed. Evidently he had no more eyes for things in

front than he had for those behind. At all events, he ran slap into a fellow who was coming along with a big bag of salt on his shoulder.

" Oh!"

That's what they both said.

Over went the man backwards into the dirt, the bag going with him.

Down went the farmer, too, on top of the man and the bag.

"Gol durn ye, what ye doin'?" grunted the man. "Get off!"

"There's a mad dog after me," gasped the farmer, getting up.

"Wal, ye needn'ter knock me daown if there is," growled the other, picking up his bag.

It had burst in its sudden concussion with the ground, and as the owner lifted it the salt began to run out.

"Look what ye done!" yelled the man. "I'll hev tew lose more'n a quart o' salt mendin' that hole."

"Go put it on the dog's tail and catch him when he comes," retorted the other. "He's now." comin' in a minnit."

Then away he went down the road, while the man grabbed his bag, busted place on top, and went the other way.

When he turned the corner he saw Moses sit ting quietly by the roadside chewing away at a big piece of meat.

Wonder ef that's the mad dog?" he remarked. "Don't look no madder'n I be. Reckon old Harvey Hardtack was kinder off his reg'lar gait."

He wasn't going to get too near that pup, however, and so he sidled off, keeping one eye on the dog and the other on his bag of salt.

As he was cross-eyed to begin with, this was not a very difficult thing to do, but if he hadn't been he must have become so from the efforts he made to look in two directions at once.

His sidling movements attracted the attention of Moses, who looked up and began to regard

him with suspicion.

The thought that the fellow wanted his meat entered that dog's head, and he was not altogether pleased.

"A row!" he remarked, getting on his feet. The man evidently thought the same thing and

he dusted. "Gosh! reckon that dog is mad, arter all," he

muttered. Just then Sam Smart, twigging the fellow, whistled to Moses.

Away went the dog toward the hotel in a

"Gosh! ef he ain't comin' arter me," cried the

man, dropping his bag and scooting. "Wow-wow!" barked Moses, surprised at the thud the bag made, and stopping to express his displeasure.

"Git eout," yelled the salt bearer, hurrying

After him went Moses, barking vigorously. Over a stone wall into a lot of briers went the man, while Sam laughed to see the fun.

Moses kept straight on and dashed up the steps just as an old maid boarder was coming out of the door.

"Oh, dear, what a horrid dog; ow, go away!" shrieked Miss Fidget, gathering her skirts up

"Don't be alarmed, miss," said Sam, encouragingly, "my dog never touches bones."

'Ugh! you brute!" sniffed Miss Fidget, while Moses came alongside to see what all the fuss was about.

That was too much for the old maid, and she hurried down those steps as though she had wings.

She even did such an immodest thing as to ex-

pose her hosiery, in her hurry.

"Oh, dear! I won't stay another minute in the house if that dog is going to be here," she screamed. "I know I shall have ten fits. It's bad enough to have men smoking on the veranda, but a dog! Ugh! that's too much," with the accent very much on the two spot.

"Don't be afraid, ma'am," called out Sam.

"That dog only eats fresh meat."

Miss Fidget felt too much insulted to reply, but

went off down the street in a huff.

As for Moses, he went off in a corner, finished his hunk of meat and curled up in a heap to have a nap, while the flies buzzed about him unnoticed.

As for Miss Fidget, she went off and told the constable that there was a mad dog on the hotel piazza, and that if he didn't shoot it at once she would report him.

This fellow was the same one who had tried to bamboozle Sam the day before, and he presently | inter yo' moul. appeared in all the majesty of the law and a dirty shirt.

"That dog yours?" asked he, pointing to Moses.

"He belongs to the firm." "Well, I want him shot."

"What for?" "He's mad."

"Do you know what made him so?"

" No."

"Thinking he'd have to stay another day in this one horse town. That's enough to make any one mad."

"H'm!" muttered the sheriff. "If he's mad

why don't you shoot him?"-

"I'd sooner shoot the town," muttered Sam. "That's got it worse than he has."

"H'm, smart ain't ye?"

"Yes, sir. Sam Smart, first cousin to Awful Smart, of Smartweed Town, Smart County."

"Wall, if yew don't shoot that dog you'll have

to pay a fine. Is he licensed?"

"Yes, licensed to bite all tramps, bummers and deputy sheriffs. If he wasn't afraid of its making him sick he'd have had a piece out of your leg long ago. See how savage he looks

At this there was a roar, and the sheriff perceived that a lo! of the stock loafers of the place had gathered about and were taking in the fun.

With that he lighted out and Sam puffed quiet-

ly at his cigar and remarked:

"It's not a warm day when Sam Smart gets the worst of an argument. This town continues to be salubrious and I think I'll stay."

CHAPTER II.

SMART & Co. intended to remain another night at the Corners, and accordingly Sam had to druin up trade in the afternoon.

The big wagon was brought out, the three horses and the mule hitched up, the partners and their assistants took their seats, and away went the whole busi-

Jeremiah tooted away on his trumpet and swelled his cheeks till they seemed ready to burst, while little Solomon scattered hand-bills and dodgers by the score.

The tooting horn brought the farmers' wives to the door, the flying dodgers sent the boys racing along the road to see who would pick up the most of them. and Moses had all the dogs in the neighborhood chas-

ing after him and trying to make his acquaintance. Such a turnout had not been seen since the last circus was 'n town, and of course it made a sensatior. The women left their pies and cakes to burn in the oven while they looked at it, the boys forgot all about

chores and the hired girls let the "jell" they were making boil all over the cook stove. Old hayseeders scratched their heads and reckoned "'at the old peddler's waggin was good 'nuff fur. them, and they didn't go much fur these new langled

fixin's with horns an' niggers an' programmes and all

thet." All the same, the old hayseeder would be certain to harness the sorrel mare to the buggy that evening after supper and "guess he'd jist run down tew station to see what moight be goin' on tew-night," and Sam Smart knew he would catch 'em every trip.

The wagon, the horses, the mule, the dog, the fat coon, the little coon and the jolly young partners made the round of the town and returned to the

tavern in time for supper.

Oh, those red-hot, cast-iron, saleratus biscults, the fried steaks, the butter strong enough to speak for itself, the bitter tea, the leathery cold meat, the salty pickles, the jam and the seed cakes, that furnish the bills of fare at country hotels!

Sam took 'em all in, but he was young and strong had a good appetite and could stand it, knowing that now and then he could strike a city and get something decent to eat.

That meddlesome under-sheriff who had bothered Sam before, was now trying to work up a scheme to bleed the enterprising young peddler and skin him out of as many hard dollars as possible.

He was always on the make, that deputy was, and he han more ways of reading a plain every day law than a cat has lives.

Sam had no occasion for paying him a cent, but he wasn't going to let go till he squeezed something out of the firm, and he had spent all the afternoon trying to think up a plan.

It was after supper, and Jeremiah John, et cetera was sitting on the edge of the stoop. Along came a brother coon, slightly the worse for

some corn juice he had been imbibing. Jeremiah seized the opportunity to read a moral lesson to his fallen brother, and at the same time col-

lared on to that brother's button-hole. "I'se sorry to see yo' in dis state, b'rer," he remarked.

"Wha' de mattah wif dis State?" inquired the victim of corn juice. "Reckin it am as good as de State ob York or Massachoo, or any oder State."

"I allude to de state ob toxification dat yo'm in. my belubbred brudder. Don' yo' know dat whisky is de wust t'ing yo' can put in yo' mouf? Lemme splain a little.

"Whisky am made ob grain what's rotten, an' mashed an' conglomerated wif all sorts ob 'noxious drugs, my brudder, an' yit yo' puts dat pizen stuff

" Lemme gib yo' a little bit ob 'stistics, my frien', an' yo'll t'ank me fo' snatchin' yo' f'om de past what leads stret to de grabe.

"I tol' yo', bredren, dat whisky costs a heap sight more'n bread, an' it amn't half so easy to swaller. Lan' sakes, bredren, yo' couldn' get a pig drunk more'n oncet, an' yit dey is men what'll act wuss'n de pigs.

"Now, de queshion is jist dis, brudders: Am we bettah dan de beas' ob de fiel', or am we not? I kin probe to yo' dat--"

Here was the chance that the deputy sheriff was looking for.

Jeremiah John had attracted quite a good-sized crowd by this time, and, seeing that they were interested, had made up his mind to spread himself.

He considered himself capable of speaking upon any subject at a moment's notice, and here was one of those chances that he was always looking for.

If there wasn't any prayer-meeting in town that night he would get up one of his own, for you can always turn a temperance lecture into a hallelujah racket if you try hard enough.

He had gone just so far in his yarr, when up came the sheriff and tapped him on the shoulder.

"Young man, are you going to deliver a lecture?"

he asked. "Yas'r, I is, right yer. Dere am a great need fur reform in dis yer town, an' I'se gwine to set de ball

a-rollin'." "Ah, the license fee for lectures is two dollars, cash

in advance." "Two dollahs fo' speakin' to de crowd an' showin'

dem de errah ob deir ways ?17 "Two dollars in advance. If you hired a hall it

would be five." "Weil, sah, go to de boss; don' bodder me; I'se too busy. Don' yo' see I'm tryin' to snatch dis yer bran from de fiah? Go to de boss; he pay de money."

"Mr. Smart is your employer, I believe ?" "Yas'r, dat am him, on de oder end ob de pirazzer.

Jes' yo' go talk to him." Away went the deputy to brace Sam while Jere-

miah went on with his lamentations, The fallen brother didn't seem to mind it very much, and Jeremiah gave the crowd all the statistics it

wanted. Meantime the sheriff had approached Sam, and said with an oily smile:

"Two dollars, Mr. Smart, if you please."

"You want to give me two dollars?"

"No, I want to collect it."

"From whom?"

"From you, my dear sir." "Aren't you a tride mistaken?"

"No, sir, not at all. I want two dollars."

"Out of me?"

"Yes, sir, out of you, and I don't want any more | ing." talk about it."

" What do you want it for ?"

" License."

"You can't collect any license from me, my man, and you know it."

"I want the license fee for the lecture."

"What lecture?"

"The one your man is giving."

"My man ?"

"Yes, the colored man. He is delivering a lecture on temperance, and the license is two dollars, and I want it."

Sam glanced along the piazza and saw Jeremiah John laying down the law to a mixed crowd of enthusiasts.

"Why, he's only drumming up custom for our sale," said Sam, with a laugh. "You can't collect on that,"

"But I will. The lecture is totally unconnected-

with your sale and must be paid for."

Then Sam fired the whole of Jeremiah's name at him in a loud tone of voice.

The lecturer stopped right in the middle of a glowing sentence, straightened up, let go the button-hole of the inebriated brother, and shouted back:

"Yas'r!"

"Go and look after the wagon." "Yas'r!" and away went Jeremiah John, while the terrible example lost his hold and fell in the dirt.

"I want a dollar for that lecture," persisted the deputy.

"Go collect it out of the example, then," said Sam. "You don't get any of my dust, and I'll give you that Straight."

Off went the deputy and hauled in the tired coon, being determined to make some money off somebody. So he hauled up the coon who got one dollar or one day and not having the dollar he was given a day's vacation, and Mr. Deputy got left.

As the shades of night began to drop the big wagon dreve into the aquare, the gasoline lamps were lighted, the rear platform was let down, and Jeremiah John Joseph, all green and gold, and wearing a cocked hat, began to toot "Killarney" on his horn for the benefit of the countrymen.

form and yelled out:

"Fellow countrymen, lend me your ears. I want | to make salt bags of them. They will be returned to you as good as new. I have selected for your amusement this evening a new and original hymn; the him who wrote it is myself. It's written in common every-day meter, and can be adapted to the piano, hand-organ, kazoo, Jew's-harp, concertina, philopena or bascoon. Jeremiah, take a twist on your instrument and give us the air."

Then Jeremiah John drew a long breath, puffed out his cheeks, blew a blast that knocked a small boy off a fence with surprise, and then started off on a rattling air, while Sam warbled as follows:

" You have often heard a man say. When advised to hazard his dust On some scheme or another, · Oh, it's not worth the bother, I know it will bust, I'm sure it won't pay,

It won't pay, it won't pay; I can't risk my rocks In taking those stocks, I tell you, dear sir, it won't pay."

" If you to a good man should say, That it's wise to be stingy and mean You'd find out in a hurry, After all of your worry, That you had been awfully green. It won't pay, it won't pay,

You'll find it won't do To fret and to stew-I'll give you a tip, it won't pay. " Don't leave off till some other day The task that should be done at once, Don't gossip and chatter On a trivial matter, Or show you're a dunce; It won't pay, it won't pay, And you'll find, to your cost, Your time has been lost,

"It won't pay to buy cheap goods simply because they are cheap," continued Sam. "I'd rather double the price on the goods I sell than have you think they were no good; I would for a fact.

So don't be a fool, it won't pay."

"Now here's a little article that everybody needsbachelors, old maids, wives, husbands, engaged couples and hardened married men.

"This article, fellow townsmen, is a patent button lifter combined. Can be used for any one and all the purposes mentioned, and never gets out of order.

"Husbands coming home late from the club, wives who go gadding and have to get home in a hurry to get the old man's supper, boys out courting, servant gals with a propensity for lighting the fire with kerosene, and who haven't benzine since the explosion, boys, girls and old women, will find a treasure here. and at the very small price of ten cents, three for a quarter, or seven for half a dollar!"

"Anything thrown in ?" asked a four dollar country masher, one of the kind who expect a suit of clothes to be given away with a pair of suspenders.

"Why, certainly," cried Sam. "I expected to give away a grand piano and the deed of a cemetery lot with every one of these little articles, but I'm sorry to say that the consignment of pianos has not arrived. However, if you'll pick out the lot you want, our private undertaker will attend to you in the morn-

That settled the young man from the country, and he subsided, while Sam went ahead and described the merits of his knife-cutter, can-opener and pot-

lifter, combined.

"Half a dozen tools concentrated in one, ladies and gentlemen, don't forget it, always handy, never out of repair, and sold for the insignificant sum of ten cents. That good-looking lady in from of me wants to buy one, I know. Peter, please attend to the lady."

All the cross-eyed, red-headed, freckled women within twenty feet of the wagon made a rush, all wishing to be thought good-looking, and the combination articles went down like molasses on buckwheat cakes.

Then Peter Pocket dressed Moses in a soldier coat and cap, gave him a gun, and put him through a regular drill, that dog winning lots of applause.

The little coon then did an Ole Virginny essence act. while the big one played the banjo, after which Sam got off another ditty, and then, having picked up a pretty good crowd, proceeded to soak it to them.

"Here's a box of our latest laid, fresh churned, Russia leather boot polish and confectionery combined," he shouted. "Shine your boots, use it for candy or make cake of it. You pay your money and take your choice."

Then he grabbed up an old boot from the little stand in front of him, scooped up some of the paste out of a box with his fingers, put some in his mouth, and anointed the boot with the rest.

"Look at that elegant polish!" he yelled, rubbing the boot with his coat sleeve till it shone. "That's what this polish does, and yet I can eat it. No deleterious compounds in this blacking, gents. You can sweeten your coffee, make ginger-bread or stop a leaky roof with it. Five cents a box, four for a quarter; buy one and you save money. There's an inducement for you. Anybody wants his boots blacked ?"?

"Yes, I do," cried the cheap rural dude whom Sam had already silenced.

"Then go hire a boy to do it for five cents," cried Sam. "You've got more money than brains and can afford to lose a little. Who'll have the next When he had finished Sam jumped upon the plat- | box? Only five cents for this rate combination of shoe polish, confectionery, and baking powder. Don't in a whole pan of beans. take it on my say-so, but try before you buy? Anybody want a bite !" and Sam chucked half a box of

> the stuff in his mouth. Then he jumped from shoe-blacking to ribbons, a cent a yard, from them to clocks, albums, plated spoons and galvanized castors, rattling away in praise of his wares, and selling things as fast as he

could handle them. He didn't waste much time with the show business, for he now had the crowd well in hand and sold

whatever he put up. "Remember, ladies and gents, this is our last night in town, and if you don't improve your opportunities now you'll never have any more. Jump onto your chances while they last, for to-morrow will see me far away, baby mine.

"Don't neglect to buy one of our patent adjustable churns, used equally well as a churn, washtuo or bread safe, can be used in hot or cold weather, warranted not to crack or rust and good in any country. Every housekeeper in the land should have one. A handsome photograph of the trick dog Moses given away with every one."

"If you're giving away pictures of dogs why don't you throw yours in ?" cried that below par dude, who never appeared to know when he had had enough.

"I'm not giving puppies' pictures, or I'd buy up a gross of yours," answered Sam. "I've got something here that'll suit you first-rate. It's a rattle; your head and it were made of the same stuff; the more you give it the shake the more noise it makes. Are

you on? Then slide!" This time the dude thought he had got sufficient,

and went away, leaving Sam in possession of the

field. "Now," cried Sam, "I have here the great Abyssinnian remedy for cleansing the teeth. It whitens, beautifies, purifies and sweetens the teeth, gums and mouth. If you want to task blarney, buy a package, and you'll have as sweet a tongue as any politician.

"One application removes al' dirt and other foreign substance. If you have any foreigners in your mouth. step up here and I'll drive 'em out. Who wants to have his teeth cleaned free of charge? Step right up. Don't be bashful, gents."

Nobody applied, and Sam set the box on the right side of the little stand and went on to something else.

"Here's the great wart cure, my dear friendswart's the matter with your trying that? Removes corns, warts, bunions, pimples and other rubbish. A corn is oakasionally a very troublesome thing, but hook, latch-key, corkscrew, can-opener and stove ash sure as yew cedar thing coming, apple-y this remedy, and it departs. That's a tree-mendous punny speech, ain't it?"

> Some of the puns missed fire and some didn't, but Sam went right on, and, catching the eye of an urchin in the crowd, invited him to take the stand.

> "Come right up here, sonny. I know you've got a wart as big as a dollar on the back of your neck, and I want to take it off."

> "Ain't nuther, it's on me t'umb," responded the youth.

> "All right, sir, that's just as good as thumb other place, if you'll excuse my lithping. Jump up here, my lad, and I'll yank that wart out before you know wart's the matter."

> Peter gave the boy a hoist upon the platform, and Sam sat him in a chair, and uncorked a little bottle.

"Show me the wart, sonny. H'm! that's it, is it? It isn't as big as a house, or as deep as an English joke, but it'll do, as Bill Shake says. Ever heard of Bill Shake? I suppose not. His other name was Bacon. and he swept out the Globe Theater after the show was over. Doesn't hurt you, does it ?"?

"No, sir," said the urchin, for Sam had been rubbing a cork over the wart on his thumb.

"Thought not. That's the beauty of this medicine. it cures without pain. That is, you can't get away without payin' me, but it doesn't pain you, see? That's a joke, my boy, and you must laugh."

Instead of laughing the boy jumped, went over backward, and nearly fell off the platform.

"How's the wart?" asked Sam, as Jeremiah picked the youth up and set him in the chair.

"It's gone!" cried the youth, looking at his thumb. "There you are. There's ten cents and a bottle of the stuff. Who wants to try my great corn, wart, and bunion remover? Only ten cents and a box of tooth powder thrown in. Knocks the spots out of all warrs and sends corns to kingdom come. Who wants a bottle ?"

There were plenty of fellows who thought they were going to get a present and they purchased, but nixey present did they get.

Sam talked ahead as fast as lightning, and sold a dozen or more bottles at a clip, switching off on to something else when the trade began to slacken up. "Now, I wonder if somebody don't want to try my

tooth powder?" he shouted. "It's better than soap and acts as a soporific. Who wants to try it. Step right up here, sir, and let me clean your teeth for you!"

This remark was addressed to a tall, raw-boned countryman standing in the glare of the lights. He was over six feet high, wore cow-hide boots,

with his trousers tucked into the tops, had on a hickory shirt and a big straw hat, wore a chin goat reard and no mustache, and looked green enough for the cows to eat.

"What yew got?" he asked Sam, as he stepped up on the platform.

"Tooth powder, sweet, clean and refreshing, makes your teeth white and sweetens your breath just as if you'd been eating sugar. Sit down, sir, and I'll fix you up so your best girl won't know you."

The countryman sat down in a chair, threw back his head and opened his mouth wide enough to take

"Not so wide," said Sam, taking up a box from the left hand side of the stand. "Not so wide, I don't need to use a broom."

The crowd giggled, and looked on with renewed interest. Jeremiah John stood on one side, with wide open

mouth and eyes, his hands on his knees, watching the operation. Solomon stood alongside, equally interested, while

the trick dog, Moses, sat on his haunches and cocked one eye at the countryman in solemn dignity. Peter Pocket stood on the other side of the coun-

tryman, and Sam was in front of him, one hand holding the little box, and the other in the air. "Pretty good teeth," he remarked-"fine and regu-

lar-no crockery there-good, natural teeth-strong enough to chew railroad restaurant sandwiches, but terribly dirty." Then he took a good-sized pinch of the powder in

the box, and began rubbing the granger's teeth with it.:

"Works like a charm," he muttered. "I'll make those grinders of yours as clean as a new pin. Don't move, sir. I'll fix 'em all right in a jiffy."

The countryman had begun to mutter certain sounds which had a decidedly brimstony flavor about them.

"Just be patient, my dear sir," cried Sam, slapping in a lot more of the stuff. Now, if he had remembered where he had placed

his box of tooth-powder when he last had it, he would have been better off.

He had stuck it on the right side of the stand.

The box he now held had been taken from the left-

hand side of the same.

One box contained the innocuous tooth-powder, the other held a forty horse power salve, hotter and stronger than young love.

The countryman's mouth was pretty well pickled from a long acquaintance with hard cider, plug tobacco, and scalding coffee, but it was not proof against the hot stuff that Sam clapped into it so suavely.

both feet, and then jumped up, as mad as blazes.

What happened next is good enough to save for another chapter.

CHAPTER III.

THE rawboned countryman upon whose teeth Sam had been operating did not at all relish having his mouth made the receptacle for all sorts of hot things.

The skin was nearly flayed from the interior of his cranium and he jumped up as mad as he could conveniently hold.

"Gosh darn ye! play tricks on me, will ye?" he yelled.

Then he struck out right and left, determined to smash the whole business. Over went Jeremiah, with all his other names, back-

ward, and clean off the platform on to the ground. The stand went one way, the chair another, and

young Solomon another. Poor Moses, that pure mongrel dog was lifted up by one of the big feet appertaining to that irate hayseeder and sent flying over the heads of the crowd.

platform, never waiting to go down the steps. Sam himself got one crack which broke him all up

and sent him into the interior of the wagon among a miscellaneous collection of goods of all sorts. All this was only the first round.

If one spasm would accomplish so much, what

wouldn't three or four of them do?

"Gol ram ye, come on, the hull lot of ye!" roared the rustic, standing in the center of the platform and squaring off for a second blow. "Play tricks on me, will ye? Burn the hull meouth off a a feller, eh? Jest yew step up here, the hull goldurned lot of ye, an' I'll | that evening. show ye how I was riz."

Sam sat away back in the wagon, very much done up, Jeremiah John was examining himself to see is there was enough left of him to take to the next camp meeting, Solomon had crawled under the wagon, Moses was yelping like a major, and Peter hadn't found out which end he stood on yet.

There stood that tearing mad countryman, squaring off at the air and looking fierce enough to eat every-

body within sight.

"Consarn ye all, jest come on an' let me give ye another sockdologer once, yew pesky critters," he muttered. "I'm right in trainin' neow, and I'd like to warm up a dozen on ye afore supper, jest to git an appetite."

Noboby accepted his kind invitation, but some one looking for letters?"

invited him to go soak his head.

"I'll soak yourn, ye gol durned shrimr," he yelled,

jumping to the ground. The crowd scattered right and left, but country

hauled off and stood in an attitude of defense, ready to lick all creation. He wouldn't lick Sam while he was down, but he

kindly invited him to step up and try another round. "One dose of that stuff is enough for a lifetime, thank you," said Sam. "Do you carry an electric

battery in that fist of yours? It felt like it." "Yew dog-gone pup, if yu'll step eout here on the

ground, I'll show ye what I carry in it."

"Not this evening, s'mother evening," warbled Sam. "This establishment is closed for repairs."

The countryman, seeing that he could get no one to fight with him, now took himself off, and the crowd dispersed.

Sam shut up shop for the evening, put away his horses and wagon, and retired to the hotel to chat with Peter.

"That countryman had a fist like a sledge hammer," remarked our hero. "I didn't know I'd given | so tickler dat I get dat piece o' mowin' done." him the wrong stuff till afterward. I wouldn't have done it for a good deal."

"Quess we might as well shake this town in the

morning," said Peter.

"Bet your boots," observed Sam. "We've done first rate, that's one comfort."

Accordingly, the next morning, directly after breakast, the whole establishment of Smart & Co. left the Corners and sought a new field for their labors.

The golden eagle on top shone in the sun, the portraits of Georgey Wash on the side panels smiled at the crowds, the partners waved their handkerchiefs. Jeremiah John tooted away on his trumpet for dear | fo' fo'ty cents, dere and back too." life, and Solomon made faces at the crowd, while Moses snapped at the heels of the grangers before finally bidding them adieu.

They entered the town of Black's Hollow, fifteen miles away, an hour or so before noon, and took it

by storm.

Reining up in front of the post office, where a

crowd had already collected, waiting for the mail, a mile. Yo' kin walk 's easy 's nuffin'." Sam stood up, tipped his hat, and said:

"No, this is not a circue, or the advance guard of the Salvation Army, but the firm of Smart & Co., peddlers, dealers in general articles, fancy goods, notions, and other things, to be mentioned later on.

"I am Smart myself, the young gentleman at my side is the Co.; the African prince in the rear is our | riber, ober a bridge, in de woods." factotum and the colored prodigy behind is the funniest moke in existence.

"Come and see our free show this evening, bring | around got on board. your best girls, and rivet on your vest buttons-also,

don't forget your pocket-books, for after the show our grand sale will take place.

"If you want spoons, knives, forks, watches wooden ware, toilet soap, towels, or perfumery, this wagor is the best place in the world to buy 'em. for you'll get your money's worth at our show, and don't you forget it!

"Our dress goods will wash, and so will our soap; you won't get stuck on our pins, though they are stickers, and so are our glues and cements for mend-He sputtered, and choked, and gagged, kicked out | ing anything that's broken, except a bank: our shoes will last and never peg out; our sash ribbons will blind you, and our patent yeast cakes take as well as make the cake, so make a break, te wide awake and don't give us the shake."

"That feller talks by steam," muttered a sober citizen in a white hat, and black clothes. "Guess he's

got that speech by heart."

"Yes, sir, and a hundred others," cried Sam. "Fact is, you can call me a regular talking kaleidoscope, always changing and always presenting something new. I chew tobacco in sixteen different languages, and quote from all the poets, ranging from Milton to the man who writes the machine verses for a patent tooth wash. Let me give you a sample:

> "There was a young man from Milwaukee Who was awfully stupid and gawky, Till he had the good taste To use Sam Smart's tooth paste, Which made his grinders look chalky."

"That's only a sample, will give more of the same sort this evening. Drive on, Peter; Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham, tool your horn; Solomon, see that Peter Focket went tumbling heels over head off the our circulars get into every box in the post-office. Don't forget to inclose dollar bills in 'em all, will you? Get up!"

Down the street rattled the giddy equipage, the women looking out of the windows, the small boys chasing after it, and the clerks in the stores wishing they had just such a rig to take their Sunday girls out

with.

Sam put up his horses, his mule, his wagon and himself at the hotel, and then took a rest till dinnertime, Peter being meanwhile occupied in sowing the town a foot deep with announcements of the sale

Along in the afternoon Sam, having occasion to want the big coon, went around to the stable and be-

gan to look for him. He found Solomon, but no Jeremiah John could be

seen. "Where's your father, Sol?"

"Dunno, boss," returned the little coon, with his grin turned on at full head.

"When did you see him last?"

"Bout an houah ago, boss; jess aftah dinnah, reckon."

"What was he doing?"

"Gwine down to de pos' offis, I reckon, kase him head war turned dat way." "What would take him to the post office? Was he

"Dunno, boss. Spec's he wanted ter see wha' war gwine on."

"He didn't say where he was going?"

"No, sah. Spec he tought it war none o' my biz." "Very likely," muttered Sam. as he walked away. At the post office he found a miscellaneous collec-

tion of men, women and boys, of all ages, sizes and colors, hanging around waiting for the mail to be sorted.

In fact, waiting for the mail seemed to be the principal occupation of the people of Black's Hollow, and although there might not be more than twenty letters to sort, it took some time to do it, and the gang wouldn't budge till all had been taken away.

As Sam stepped up he noticed three or four darkies standing together talking, and he looked around for Jeremiah.

"Am yo' gwine ober to de camp dis aftahnoon, 'Rastus?" asked one of the coons, a coffee-colored moke in an old pair of overalls, a blue shirt, big straw hat and cowhide boots.

"No, sah, I kean't spar' de time, Jeems. De boss am

"Dere's a gret outpo'in' ob de sperrit at dese meetin's, I tol' yo' Rastus, an' yo'd orter fink 'nuff ob yo' salwation to 'ten' dem." "Camp meeting in town, eh boys?" asked Sam,

stepping up. His suspicions had been aroused and he was on the

lookout for the full particulars. "Yas'r, dey is an' a big un, all de bredren fo' miles

aroun' is dere." "Wanter go ober, boss? I takes yo' dere fo' fifty

cents." "Don' yo' go wif dat coon, boss. I totes yo' dere immense.

"Colored camp-meeting, is it?"

"Yas'r, reg'lar Af'ican Mefodis' meetin' undah de Greckshun ob de persidin' eldah."

" How far is it ?" "Bout a mile."

"Tain't eider, boss, it's fo' miles." "Dem niggers is foolin' yo', cunnel-it am only half

"No, yo' kan't, boss; it am all up hill, bofe ways," "Bettah take a ca'iage, boss. Take yer dar cheap."

"If I go I'll take my own horse," remarked Sam. "Oh!" muttered all the coons. "How far is it, now?" asked Sam, with a wink.

"Jes' 'bout a mile, boss, right on de oder side ob de Pretty soon a big four seated wagon, crowded with day and night, and perhaps the next day as well. coons, drove up, and most of the darkies standing

"Dis way to de cam'-meetin'!" shouted the driver, 'there was a camp-meeting going on.

a big darky, as black as ink. "Gwine right off dis minnit. Take yo' all dere fo' ten cents a head."

Having increased his load by half a dozen, the coon driver started off, and Sam followed in his wake.

A walk of about fifteen minutes through a pleasant country brought him to the camp grounds.

This was a pretty little pine grove, whose aromatic odors were delightful to the senses, and on the edge of which ran a noisy river, spanned by a rustic bridge.

There were openings here and there in the grove. and in one of these was a stand and a lot of rough

benches on which sat the faithful.

Old white wool aunties, antiquated uncles with goggles, duce coons looking like escaped rainbows. sprightly wenches gotten up regardless, and no end of boys, girls and babies, sat on the hard benches and listened to the flow of eloquence from the primitive pulpit.

Here and there, through the wood, strolled amorous mokes, casting sheep's eyes on one another, while orawny hands were passed around eighteen-inch

waists, love looks shone in their optics.

Here and there, too, mischievous youngsters of all shades from cream to chocolate, and from black to pearl brown, cut up all sorts of antics, and called down the wrath of the deacons, who now and then chased them away with stout sticks.

Sam stood at the end of the collection of benches, looking over the congregation when the preacher, who was getting a bit winded, belched forth:

"Bredren an' sinners, sisters an' all han's, I wish to interdooce to yo' notis de gret ewangelis', Prudder Sniff, who will tell yo' all 'bout yo' sins."

Then, to Sam's not very great astonishment, up. popped Jeremiah John Joseph, and jumped right into his discourse.

"Bredren, an' sistahs," he shouted, "am yo'awar' whar yo'm gwine? Yo'm all goin' stret to de lan' ob orimstun a: flah ef yo' don't 'pent ob yo' sins.

"Ab, I tol' yo', bredren, dat lan' amn't a pleasant lan' to lib in fo' anybody. Dere ain' no milk an' honey dere, I tol' yo'-not eben skim milk an' 'lasses, bredren.

"Dat lan' am a dreff'l lan', an' smells jes' like yo' set of a hull box ob loose-fiah matches all to once, right undah yo' noses-dat's what it am, an' yo'm all steerin' stret fo' dat lan', 'less yo' 'pent ob yo' sins. I tol' yo', an' jine de gospel p'ocession marchin' to de regiums ob glory.

"Oh, bredren, does yo' wanter sit foreber holdin' yo' noses to keep out de brimstun, or does yo' wanter sit down in de boofui medders, sniffin de new-mown hay an' smellin de sweet flowahr ob bressedness-

hay ?"

And Jeremiah John shouted out this last word, and brought his big fist down on the little desk with such a thump that the supports gave way.

Over went the excited speaker right on top of the first row where sat the anxious.

They were indeed anxious when they saw that big coon coming toward them, and the way they scram-

bled up was a cantion. Some of them were not sudden enough, and one lank specimen of coon was fairly pinned to the bench as Jeremiah came flying off the stand, reading desk

and all. What a yelling and howling and shricking there was!

The thin darky thought he was dead, while his wife -a fat sister weighing nearly as much as Jeremiahbegan pounding that astonished moke over the back with her umbrella.

That didn't fetch him up, for he was all out of breath, but something else did.

It was Sam suddenly shouting out in stentorian

tones: "Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham Isaac Moses

Glory Hallelujah Smith, come here this minute!" "Yas'r, heah I is," cried Jeremiah, jumping to his feet in an instant.

Then Sam ran down the aisle between the two sections of benches, grabbed Jeremiah by the ear, big as he was, gave him a kick behind and said: "Get out of here, you lazy coon, and go to work."

"Yas'r," muttered Jeremiah, marching off as quiet as a lamb, while all the brethren wondered. If he had wanted to fall upon his boss, that big coon

could have made Sam feel as flat as a flounder; but he was meekness itself.

"How dar' ye disturb de meetin', yo' common white trash?" cried the presiding elder, jumping to his feet.

"Rats!" cried Sam, giving Jeremiah John another kick.

It had no more effect, physically, than if Sam had kicked an air cushion, but its moral optcome was

To be kicked before a whole congregation was humiliating beyond expression, and Jeremiah felt his disgrace keenly.

"Ain't you ashamed to go loafing off like this !" cried Sam. "If I hadn't caught you, you wouldn't have shown up till midnight, and then come home tight, I suppose. Get out of here, you lazy, good-tornothing coon."

Then Sam gave him another kick, which hurt only his inner feelings, and had no effect whatever on his corporal senses.

Sam was nearly laughing at the crestfallen look of the big coon, but he held in till he got out of the camp.

He knew well enough that if he hadn't hauted the darky out of camp he would have remained there all

There was no use in having a fellow you couldn't depend on, and Jeremiah was just that sort when

He said nothing till they had crossed the bridge, when he remarked:

"Wha' fo' yo' make all dat fuss, boss? Don' yo' s'pose I come quietly, jes' as well as t'oder way?"

"No," said Sam, "you wouldn't."
"Wha's de ha'm in goin' to meetin', boss?" "None if you came home again, but you wouldn't. You're the laziest nigger I ever saw, and I don't want

you any more. You're discharged!" "Yo' gib me de shake, boss?"

"Yes, you're discharged. I don't want you any more. Peter, will give you your money. You can go back to the camp meeting if you like."

Then Sam coolly lighted a cigar and strolled on as carelessly as though that coon were not within a thousand miles.

Go back to the camp after being hauled by the ear and kicked out of it?

Not for Jeremiah John Joseph!

next two days," returned Peter, grinning. "What was it this time, Sam?"

"Too much camp-meeting. However, I nabbed him in time, or we would have had to do without bim to-night."

When Jeremiah returned, Peter was sitting alone on the piazza, and beckoning to him, said: "I hear you are dismissed, Jeremiah?"

"Yas'r, de boss fiah me out, jes' fo' nuffin 'tall." "That does not concern me," said Peter. "All I know is that you are discharged. How much do we owe you?"

All this was said with an air of severity that completely deluded the poor coon.

"Donno, Marse Pete, guess I hab to lebe dat to yo'." "Well, here's a dollar, I guess that's about right," and Peter passed over the case which Jeremiah took and gazed at in a most lugubrious fashion.

"Am dat all, Marse Petey?"

Thank you, sir. Here are the spoons, genuine Nevada mine silver spoons, made expressly for Smart & Co., every spoon stamped with our initials. Who'll have the next lot? Any more, Peter? You, m'am? Thank you, ma'm. You won't find a better spoon than that from here to California. If you do I'll buy

The pop-corn went popping, for everybody wanted a lot of spoons, and wanted to be the twentieth buyer.

"All gone!" yelled Sam, as he tossed the last lot of corn at a big colored woman who now strode up to the wagon.

"Whar's my spoons?" she cried.

"Sorry, ma'am, but that's only the ninety-nirth package of corn, and it's the hundredth that takes the spoons."

"Den gimme dat, too," and the darky woman shoved up another nickel.



"Pretty good teeth," he remarked—"fine and regular—no crockery there—good, natural teeth—strong enough to chew railroad restaurant sandwiches, but terribly dirty." Then he took a good-sized pinch of the powder in the box, and began rubbing the granger's teeth with it.

He would no more go near that camp or any of the Black's Hollow coons after that than he would jump into the pond with lead in his shoes. Sam knew that and that was why he had acted

thusly.

As for the discharge, that also acted as an inducement to keep the coon away from the meeting. Sam had had him perhaps a month, and in that

time he had already discharged him a dozen times. It was the only way to keep him up to time, for the simple coon honestly believed, every time, that his dismissal was positive and peremptory.

He followed Sam at a distance, looking more owlishly solenin than ever, and wearing a look of deep dejection.

"Dat am allus de way," he remarked to himself. "When a fellah try to do him duty an' go 'cordin' to right, den he lose him job an' gets kicked down in de dus'! I'se 'scharged, I is, an' nobody car's nufflin' fo' me. I'se a po' orphan, wif a healfy young imp ob a son to lock artah an's support an' nuffin' to do it on. Spec's we bofe hab to go to de po' house, all 'count ob dat hand-hearted boss ob mine,"

ing, and he never once looked back, but skipped along as merry as a lark, now and then sending out airy and insures your life. A dozen silver spoons given musts of white smoke, which floated away lazily over away with every twentieth package. Here you are. his head.

moke, and finding Peter on the hotel piazza, said: "Jeremiah has been discharged. You can give him

a dollar." "You'll see as straight a coon as ever was for the I tieth man gets a dozen spoons. You, sir? Yes, sir. I

"That's all." "Couldn' yo' gib me suffin' for Solomon ?"

"No, he's thrown in."

"An' I'se frown out," muttered Jeremiah John. sadly, as he walked away. The moment he was out of hearing Peter laughed.

ready to split. "That coon takes the bakery!" he remarked. "I don't know what we'd do without him." Just before dark Peter found him sitting on a bench

out in the barn, and said to him: "I'll want you to-night; Jeremiah ohn, don't forget

it, and I'll let you know to-morrow whether you're to stay or not."

"A' right, Marse Peter." said the coon glumly. 'Reckon I kin stav a lilly while."

That evening Sam collared the crowd by his singing. Peter's dog circus and the singing and playing of the two coons, there being a regular jam in front of the big wagon.

"Now, then, ladies and gentlemen," he shouted, ear. 'I'll start off this sale with some of our extra-fine. ugar-coated, sweet-scented pop-corn, that makes your hair curl, brings out a mustache in four days, Sam knew well enough that the coon was follow- covers the baldest head with glossy curls in six applications, gives you free admission to all the circuses, now only a nickel, half a dime, or five cents. Who's He reached the hotel a long way in advance of the | the first lucky man to get he spoons? Who's the first Butler in the crowd?

take any lead nickels. Remember, gents, the twen- the shins.

"Sorry, ma'am, but we had only ninety-nine. Fetch up the next article, Peter. Soap, I believe?"

"Yo' can't soap me!" cried that angry wench. "I wan' dem spoons, an' I'se boun' to hab 'em." Then she jumped upon that platform, caught sight of Jeremiah John and yelled:

"Fo' de lan' sakes, ef dar ain' my long-los' husban', sho's yo' bo'n!"

CHAPTER IV.

THE announcement that Jeremiah John was her husband, made by that big female coon, caused a momentary consternation in the camp of Smart & Co.

"Come right heah, yo' sassy niggah!" cried the woman, laying hands on Jeremiah. "Wha' for yo' run away f'om me an' leabe me to do all de wo'k? I show you, niggah!"

Then she fetched one of her big hands, looking more like a ham than anything else, across the coon's

"Don' vo' tell me yo' isn't my man," she cried, boxing the other ear and making Jeremiah wince. "I jes' take dat nonsense out'n yo' when I gits vo' home, see ef I don', yo' good-fo'-nuffig, no 'count coen!"

Then she banged Jeremiah over the nose, thumped him on the back, and there was no knowing where sne would have stopped had not young Solomon interfered.

"Yo' le' my fader alone, yo' ol' niggah woman," "Pass 'em right out, Peter, and be sure you don't he cried, rushing up and taking the wench a kick on

There was good leather in his boots, and that mis-

guided colored female gave a yell and sat down so sudden that she made the platform creak.

The crowd thought this was all a part of the show and laughed, yelled and giggled.

Jeremiah John got away, but as the wench was scramoling to her feet Moses, the trick dog, came flying at her, barking like mad.

"Yo' hit my fader agin, ef yo' tink bes'!" growled Solomon. "Sick 'em, Mose; tear de shoestrings off'n de ol' woman."

"Whar am dat husban' ob mine?" cried sweet Susannah or whatever else her name was. "I jes' wipe de flo' wif him ef I cotch him."

"The man is not your husband, madame," said Sam, "and I'll be obliged if you'd skip out of here." "Skip! me skip! Yo' donno who's yo's talkin' to. I'se a membah ob de chu'ch I is, an' I'se too dignumfied to do any skippin', I tol' yo."

"Why does the president wear red, white, and blue suspenders? To keep his trousers up. Why do people buy these plasters? Because they're the best in the market. You won't get stuck on 'em, though they're as good stickers as tar and feathers,"

Meanwhile, the angry colored woman had disappeared in search of her recreant husband, and Sam held the crowd by his rattling talk, getting off jokes. puns, and conundrums by the yard.

The plasters were only meant as a stop gap for, while Sam was discoursing on their merits and selling a few, Peter was unpacking a lot of boxes and putting them on the stand.

"Here we have some of the celebrated cough mixture, used by the late Emperor of Russia," deciared Sam, holding up a small bottle. "It yanked him away from death's door on several occasions, and if he had had time to get his bottle when the Nihilists blew him up with dynamite, he would have been alive yet.

Can you ever get rich if you spend every cent? I guess not.

Can you keep an umbrella when it is Lent? I gues not.

Can you marry two girls and have any peace? Can you make first class butter from old axlegrease?

Will the number of old maids ever decrease? I guess not.

HOY THEW I HOLE YOU "Does a man enjoy life when he's poor as a shad? I guess not.

Do ministers' sons never go to the bad?

I guess not."

I guess not. Do whales grow on trees? Do pigs live in the sea? Does seven times seven make forty-three? Or were two of a trade ever known to agree?



"Yew dog-gone pup, if yu'll step eout here on the ground I'll show ye what I carry in it." "Not this evening, s'mother evening," warbled Sam. "This establishment is closed for repairs."

Then the crowd laughed some more, and that made Mrs. Coon mad.

nex' one, an' I won' 'tand no sass."

At this she proceeded to sail into the crowd right and left, and those she hit were glad enough to get out of the way.

Sam grabbed up a cornet, tooted a tremendous and he had lots of voice:

"The entertainment will now conclude with one grand, international, reciprocal, no duty sale of porous plasters. If your friend asks you where you've been for a week back, tell him you've been to me for a plaster; that'll cure a week back if you've had it a month back.

"Step up and examine our plasters, and you'l! never buy any others. Don't think because they have holes in 'em that they're moth eaten, for they ain't, that's the porosity of em. Twenty-five cents for a plaster, and a pocket dictionary given away with one, which alone costs ten cents.

"Never mind that colored woman. We employ no traveling agents and do no advertising. She belongs to a rival establishment, but this is the shop where you get your money's worth.

"These porous-plasters will cure stiff necks, lame backs, saddle-backs or any other kind of aches, pains or cramps. Buy one and you'll never use anything else. You couldn't spend a quarter better. If you bought beer it would soon be gone, but these plasters tick to you.

"How often do you hear the sad refrain, 'Twas a cough that carried him off-'twas a coffin they car-"Who's yo' laffin' at ?" she cried, getting down ried him off in?" This cough mixture prevents from the platform. "Reckin' I'se a lady much as de and cures the worst case of cough you ever saw. One dose and the cough is all broken up. They even use it to break up town meetings down our way when they get too long-winded. Ten cents a bottle, with the map of the world printed on each wrapper.

"Buy a bottle, break up your cold, and study geogblast on it, and then shouted as loud as he could yell, I raphy all at the same time. Best little investment you ever made. While my partner is taking in the dimes I will proceed to warble."

> Just then, however, Jeremiah John came sneaking up to the wagon and said:

"Am de wench gone away, boss?" "No; she's under the wagon. Look out for your-

selfl" cried Sam. That was enough for Jeremiah, and he dusted out of that locality in a hurry.

"Now, then, fellow sufferers," said Sam, "I will proceed to warble, as I said previously," and forthwith he relieved his feelings in the following ditty:

" Can a silk purse be made of the ear of a pig?

I guess not. Do mice turn to rats as soon as they're big? I guess not.

Can you make a small boy prefer work to play? Can you live like a lord on ten cents a day? Can you make a blind horse eat shavings for hay? I guess not.

The crowd got regularly wild over this song, and yelled till they were hoarse.

"Give us some more!" they howled.

"I guess not," said Sam. Then be began selling his bottles of cough mixture. giving away a bottle every now and then and returning the money, so as to stimulate others to buy.

Those cough mixture bottles went like honey on corn dodgers, and the whole lot was disposed of in ten minutes.

Sam had got the crowd into good humor, and he sold everything he put up.

Pancake turners, shaving mugs, egg beaters, shoe strings, scarf pins, dried herrings and prepared coffee went like lightning, in fact, it made no difference how incongruous were the different articles offered, they went all the same.

Finally the crowd began to thin out, for it was growing late, and Sam asked Peter to play "Home, Sweet Home" on the jew's-harp while he packed up. Jeremiah John Joseph came around as the boys were putting the lights out, followed by Solomon,

who had gone off with him on his second lighting out.

"Where's your wife, Jeremiah?" asked Sam. "She ain' my wife 'tall, boss. Neber seen her afo' dis ebenin'."

"Didn't you meet her at the camp meeting?" asked Peter. "Spec's mebbe I did, but I disremember, Marse

Peter." "Ain't she your mother, Solomon ?" asked Sam. "No, sah. Me moder am anoder woman altoged-

der. Neber see dat wench afo'. Reckon she's and stor has on orange toy best box looney."

Solomon proved to have come to the right conclusion, for when Sam and Peter went into the office of the hotel, after putting things to rights, they found out all about her.

She was a half crazy coon, whose husband had run away from her years before on account of her bad temper, and she fancied that every strange darky she met was her truant husband.

She had seen Jeremiah at the camp meeting, and had followed him up, collaring on to him, as already mentioned, as he sat on the oig wagon.

The next day, during the morning, Jeremiah was missed again, and Solomon gave it as his opinion that his father had taken in the negro camp meeting was only a few steps to the hold, and

"I won't have any more fooling with that moke," ! jes' mean 'nuff."

"Dey's some money comin' to me, isn't dey, boss ?"

"Not a red! You've been overpaid, if anything." "Jes' glad ob it," snorted Jeremiah. "Ef yo' hadn't said it fus' I war jes' gwine to 'scharge yo' m' ownre'f. Yo's no good, an' I wouldn' wo'k fo' yo' ef yo' gib me fi' doliah a day." All and the guille ha

Oh, you wouldn't?" said Sam, not a little surprised.

"No, sah. I'se jes' glad I'se gwine away. I'se sick ob de hull business. No cam' meetin', no pra'rs, no lub feas', no numin', only wo'k all de time."

"Well, we're both satisfied then." said Sam, with a laugh.

"Yas'r, we'se bofe sass'fied, on'y I'se sass'fied de mos'. I'se gwine home, an' yo' kin go on wif yo' ol' wagon fo' all o' me. Specs like 'nuff yo' sen' Solomon home, too, but I don' car' ef yo' do. Yo'm Sam was just the boy to gratify t

"Nor as independent," laughed Peter.
"Wasn't he, though?" returned Sam. "If he had owned half the earth and had a mortgage ready to foreclose on the other half, he couldn't have been more uppish."

"Or maybe he was afraid that that big wench would get hold of him and run him off in spite of himself."

"Perhaps so. " am . Lod flone of allegin syll-yillows

"If there are any camp-meetings on our route we'll be sure to run across him. I believe if he knew there was a camp-meeting forty miles off he'd go to it if he had to waik."

"That's the power of the spirit that outpours at these meetings," remarked Sam, with a chuckle. "My experience of these affairs has always been, however, that there is as much a pouring down of spirits as there is a pouring ont."

" Of course. If you pour it out you might as well



"Wish I'd stayed wif Sam Smart now; cussed big fool I didn', dat's wha' I is. Wish we'd hab a showah." "All right," thought Sam. "If that's what you want Ill accommodate you."

said Sam, very decidedly. "This time he's got to | Jeremiah John was on his ear and just wanted to | pour it down," replied Peter. "You wouldn't wanted go." "Am yo' gwine to gub him de gran' bounce, boss?"

asked Solomon, o full metructions now to not "Yes, I am. I'm not going to keep yanking him out of camp meetings. It takes all my time."

"Am yo' gwine to fiah me too, boss?" "No, you can stay, but I won't have that lazy coon any longer."

Jeremiah was gone all the morning, but showed up promptly at dinner-time, looking as innocent as a billy goat chewing a circus poster.

"Oh, you've got back, have you ?" asked Sam, an-"Yas'r, I'se back." Yas'r, I'se back."

"Where have you been?" The sail to boom and

Down to cam' meet'n', boss,"10 111 "Didn't I tell you not to go there?"

Reckon yo' did, loss." "And you went, for all that?"

"Ain't a givine to tell a lie 'bout it, boss."

"Then you don't care what I say?"

"Reckon yo' kean't keep me 'way fom de meet'n' by sayin' I shan't, boss." "All right, then, that settles it. You're bounced,'

"Yo' fish me out, boss ?"

"Yes, sir, vou're fired out, so get, and don't show

your ebony mug around here again." "Kean't go till aftah dinnah, boss," said that coon,

coolir. "You can't get any dinner on me. I've paid for all : a'm going to."

latter and was glad enough to shake him.

He got his dinner, all the same, and then disappeared in the direction of the camr ground and did not show up all day. or our comes adol palmers

Sam remained in Black's Hollow that night and did a roaring business, dropping small articles and selling big ones, so as to show the people that his firm was no Cheap John affair, and that he could carry as expensive a lot of goods as any one.

Sam and Peter both got off lots of songs and jokes, Solomon made a funny stump speech, Moses did some new tricks, and Sam played on all sorts of instruments.

The young peddlers just had that crowd of countrymen solid, and the evening's sale netted them a tidy little sum.

"The sun is still shining, Peter, my boy," said Sam. as they sat smoking before turning in, "and we'd better make as much hay as possible."

"Do you think this town will stand us another night?" asked Peter.

"It's stood a week of nigger minstrels, they tell me, and still lives, and I guess we can fetch 'em again." The darky camp-meeting broke up that night, but Jeremiah did not return, and in the morning he was still missing.

"Guess he must have really started for home," said Peter. "I half expected that he would come and beg me to ask you to take him back."

"Yes, he's gone for sure this time, I guess," said Sam. "He's never been away so long before."

That morning Sam and Peter rehearsed a new and very nobby song and dance, which they contemplated inflicting upon the crowd that evening, and then Sam hunted through a lot of songs to find one that would take the popular taste, for these countrymen wanted new things or nothing.

In the afterroom Sam made a trade in horses and showed himself up to snuff, while Peter bought a lot of cheap cigars so as to be up in tobacco. Innormalis

When the shades of night were beginning to show themselves, the hig wagon was driven out and the gasoline lamps threw their oily brilliancy over the scene.

Jeremiah John was absent and so Peter banged away on the big drum, for he was a natural drummer by reason of his business, and Sam coaxed sweet sounds out of the cornet to tickle the ears of the crowd.

The countrymen seemed to need a good deal of persnasion this night, for it was not and ancomfortable out of doors even, though the night had fallen, and Sam put on his song and dance with Peter and rattled off half a dozen lively ditties.

Then little Solomon did a contortion act, and Peter put Moses through his exercises, by which time the

crowd had increased. "I'm going to be generous to-night, boys," cried Sam, picking up a box of cigars. " Have a smoke with me. "am Thy of saw I look and a ted w too

And he began tossing the cheap cigars that Peter had purchased into the crowd.

man who stood near the wagon.

man like you should lead people astray."

"Oh, it don't cost you anything," said Sam, as he nuffin'!" fired the cigars right and left. "These are only sam- Then he snorted some more, swabbed off his foreples, gents, to show you what we can do. I have a head and wrung out his handkerchief. few boxes left that I'll sell for fifty cents apiece, "Gorramity! wish I'd stayed wif Sam Smart now; twenty-five cigars in each box, matches thrown in. cussed big fool I did'n', dat's wha' I is. Wish we'd Try 'em and then buy 'em."

"Say, mister," cried a young countryman, who had "All right," thought Sam. "If that's what you lighted his cigar and was puffing away vigorously, want I'll accommodate you."

"where's the corn beef that goes with this cabbage?" "Can't give you any," said Sam, "but I can tell you where you can get corred pork. Go sit in a barrel of brine and pickle yourself. Catch on? Theu hold on and don't bristle up over the swiney joke, water tank, wished for a shower. shoulder your treubles and save your bacon, or souse 'em into the brook, that's the kind of man I ham, my grunter, so root out of here or I'll root a beggar out. Catch on to the ruter baga? Then turn up and lettuce have peas. Who wants some corn salve? Takes the corns right out by the roots. Ten cents a box and a when Sam yanked on the valve rope. Chromo of Andrew Jackson given away free."

Then he and Peter soaked that crowd on corn salve, tooth paste and shoe blacking, and jumped from them to calico aprocs, flanuel nightcaps and Turkish towels, though the thermometer was getting tired of

climbing up into the eighties. The sale did not last very long, for the people were hot and disgusted, and Sam therefore closed up early

and went off to bed. The next morning Smart & Co. left the town at an early hour, for it promised to be a blazing hot day.

The sun got in his big licks when he first arose, and the air was positively stifling.

The farmers sweated like bullocks as they worked in the fields and sought the shade of the trees, under which lay their water-jugs, quite frequently.

The store-keepers remained within doors, and customers were like the visits of angels-not very many of them, and scattered at that.

Sam had swapped his mule and his old plug, his former polers, for two rattling nags, but on this morning they had no more spirit than a yoke of head back of the shower. oxen.

There was no Jeremiah, and so little Solomon sat on the box, the sweat pouring off him, and tried to ward under the tank. blow the bugle.

Both Sam and Peter felt as if they were being baked, and still they did not like to urge the horses, for they seemed to suffer more than their masters.

"Hany man dares to ask me if this is hot enough and crawled out from under the tank. for me," said Sam, as he wiped the sweatperation from his manly brow with a dripping wipe, ' I think I'll be tempted to murder him,"

"Or consign hir to a hotter place yet," observed off him in streams. Peter.

"I don't believe it exists, my boy, and I'll wager that all the cows we see will be turned into roast beef before night if this weather keeps up."

"I hope we'll strike a decent town before long, breath and looked at the tank. then. Anything is better than this,"

heat, the horses ascended a little hill and came to a but I didn' look fur no sich heaby rain as dat." railroad crossing.

At some little distance down the track Sam could see a station and a cluster of houses.

mistaken," he said, "and I think I'll stop,"

He was about to cross the track, when he suddenly reined up his tited steeds.

ing ?" " No." "What are you stopping for?"

" Well ?" "Do you see that big water tank on stilts half way between here and the station?"

" Yes." "Do you see anything else?"

"Look down the track?"

"Oh, yes, I see a man sitting on the braces just un- walking disconsolately along the track. steel wire. der it."

"Who is he?" " How the dickens do I know? You're as bad as a country girl visiting her city friends. She thinks they know everybody. Mar your's but man additions

"You know that fellow as well as I do. Look again, musey that agent but noth pullbin

"Why, yes, to be sure, it's the big coon."

over the track and I'll get down."

then stopped while Sam climbed from his high seat to the ground. Our hero then hurried along the track, keeping out of right of Jeremian who sat in the shade of the big grin.

round water tank which looked like a huge hogshead set upon legs. One of the lower braces served him for a seat, and

there he sat, sweating like a horse.

Just above his head was the big spout through which water was supplied to the engines on the rail-

road. On the other side, reaching nearly to the ground, was the rope which opened the valves above and let

on the water. Stealing cautiously up behind, and making no noise, Sam Smart gazed at the big coon with a com-

ical wink of his eye. "Whew! it am hot, take my oaf!" exclaimed Jeremiah, swabbing his head with a big bandanna handkerchief and puffing like a porpoise.

Pam agreed with him on that point. "Gorry! what a big fool I was to git mad and start to walk hump' he presently continued, giving an- how you got wet. So don't try to lie out of it."

"Have a weed, sir," he asked a clerical-looking other puff. "Ef I'd stayed wif de boss I could a-rode, an' not go sweatin' my gizzard out a-hoofin' it in dis Peter, "and we haven't seen a drop of rain." "I never indulge in such a vile habit as smoking," wedder. Fo' Gawge, I don' b'lieve it's any hottah dan said the other, "and I am astonished that a young dis down in debil's kitchen, I don' fo' a fac'! Serves me Jeremiah, dropping the subject like a hot poker. right fo' bein' so contrairy an' gettin' my back up fo'

hab a showah."

CHAPTER V.

JEREMIAH JOHN, sitting under the spout of the

He got it.

Sam was just the boy to gratify the coon's wishes. No sooner said than done.

The words had scarcely left the moke's lips,

Swash! Out came the water in a regular flood.

It caught Jeremiah John and so forth Smith right on top of the head.

Never, since the days of old Noah, did one man get such a ducking.

He was wet all over, from head to foot, in a twinkling.

Down came the water as if the heavens had busted.

braces with both hands.

He held on, but so did the water.

If he had let go, he would have gone over backward, and the shower would have stopped.

But he did not.

Consequently the water still came down.

Suck a ducking as he did get!

He was nearly choked, and finally he ducked his

Ducked too far, lost his grip and went over back- drew rein, quite a crowd collected.

Then the water stopped.

Sam sneaked out of the way in a hurry, and first-class, gold medal, highest prize peddlers. crouched behind some bushes.

There it stood, looking as innocent as possible. Jeremiah was wringing wet, and the water ran

died for the want of a good guffaw.

That would have spoiled all the fun.

"Reckon dat t'ing mus' ha' busted," he mut-little brother. Toward noon, when the weather seemed at boiling tered. "Gorry! I fought we'd orter hab a showah,

lon of water, more or less, from each, wrung out a blacksmith's apron, water tight bucket or sheet-"I've got some freight at that station, if I'm not his coat and vest, and again contemplated the ing for leaky roofs. Don't have to be half-soled lank.

get dry in de sun; but I'd jes' like to see de feller boys' trousers are generally subjected. "What's up?" asked Peter Pocket. "Train com-dat runs dat ting once, an' ax him to stop dat

leakin' de next time." Sam was afraid to stay any longer, for, fear he

and returned to his wagon.

He told Peter of the racket he had played on Jeremiah, and they both roared.

The moment that coon saw the wagon he gave

wif yer," he shouted.

then stopped. "Don't forget the day and date, and be sure to

wif yo'?" he panted.

"Where've you been?" asked Sam, with a broad "Did you fall into a watering trough?"

"No, boss, it hab been raining." "()h, it has, eh?"

"When was this?"

"Jes' dis mo'nin', boss." "Why, we haven't seen any rain."

"Didn' yo', boss?" asked the coon, solemnly.

"No, sir, not a drop."

"Wall, reckon vo' mus' ha' come de oder way.

It rain like de dickens whar I been." Sam couldn't keep in any longer, but let out a dude by a wave of his thumb. laugh that set Mose to barking and made the

horses jump. "You old sinner!" cried Sam, "I know very well caught on in a jiffy.

Same will be the best best was at long being

"We've come the same way you have," added

"Won' yo' lemme go wif yo', boss?" plended "I'se sorry I wor sassy."

"You'll 'tend to business?"

" Yas'r." "And not run off to camp meetings?"

"No, boss." "All right, then, I'll hire you."

Jeremiah was going to climb right up into his usual seat, but Sam said quickly:

"Hold on, don't you go to getting up there with all those wet togs on. Do you want to ruin the cushions? I'm going to stop at this place, and you can walk."

It was only a few steps to the hotel, and this distance the coon walked, helping the stablemen look after the horses.

All hands had dinner and took a rest, and then Sam got his freight, finding it waiting for him. That evening it rained very heavily, and so there

was no sale nor free show for the crowd. If he had wanted to the young merchant could have hired a hall and held his sale, rain or no rain, as he often did, but he did not care to do that in

so small a place. "It won't hurt us to wait over one night," he said, "and we'll be all the fresher for it."

The next day was Saturday, and as it was much cooler, and he was going to a town of considera-Jeremiah gave one gasp, and grabbed for the ble size, Sam knew he would do a good business.

They started off the first thing in the morning. and after a ride of twelve or fourteen miles, dashed into the town where they were to spend the night.

Jeremiah had on his uniform and looked as proud as a major, as he sat up on his high perch and awakened the echoes for miles around with his trumpet.

The whole equipage attracted plenty of attention! and when Sam drove up in front of the hotel and

"Fellow sinners!" he shouted, "behold the simple turnout of Smart & Co., the A Number One

"Come and call on us this evening, right here in Then Jeremiah John got up, drew a long breath the public square, and you'll find that we are square and straight, and up and down honest fellows to deal with.

"First of all we give a show that takes the biscuit, and all for nothing, and then we sell the Sam held in from laughing, although he nearly biggest line of goods at the cheapest rates this side of Boston, New York, or anywhere else.

"Come along and buy the baby a new frock, get Jeremiah shook himself, drew another long your mother-in-law a bonnet, purchase your wife a silk dress, or procure a pair of trousers for your

"The trousers we sell for boys are the patent reversible, no-wear-out, indestructible kind, fit any Then Jeremiah took off his shoes, poured a gal-boy and give universal satisfaction; can be used as more'n once a year, and will stand sliding down on "It am lucky fo' me it am a hot day, kase I kin cellar doors or any other rough usage to which

"Then there is our patent wire bustle for giving

elegance and fine shape to your dresses.

"Can be used for a bird cage, mouse trap, hangwould burst out laughing, and so he crept away ing basket, foot ball, or muzzle for a bull dog. Combines durability with elegance, and sold for a mere song.

"It can be used as a cradle, window-screen, um-Then Sam drove on, and in a few minutes came brella rack, or patent swing, being adapted to any in sight of the road and the tank, and Jeremiah and all these purposes, and made of the finest

"All the leading professional beauties go crazy "Hi, ho! Hol' on dere, boss. I wants ter go queens and princesses of Europe, and so have over them, and I've just shipped a big lot to the only a few left, which I will sell cheap for cash, Sam drove on till he came to the station, and with full instructions how to adjust.

Jeremiah John came up in a few moments, puff- come around. Such an opportunity may never be "Certainly, and here's a chance for a snap. Drive ing and blowing, and leaving a wet wake behind offered again. If I wasn't selling, I'd be sure to ver the track and I'll get down."

Peter took the reins, drove across the track and "Hol' up, boss, ain' yer gwine to took me 'long get. Don't disremember the free show before the sale."

Then Sam drove into the hotel yard, put up the horses, and went inside with Peter, while Jeremiah and Solomon stayed without.

In the general sitting-room of the hotel, which "Yas'r, it jes' rain cats an' dogs an' I didn' hab was used for the office, reading-room, smokingno 'brella. Tol' yo' what, boss, yo' nober seen sech room and parlor, there was a dude standing against the desk talking to the clerk.

He had one hand behind him, and in this he held a lighted cigar, the small end turned outwards.

"Good chance for a smoke?" said Sam to Peter, nodding toward the dude.

"First class. Where's the coon?"

Just then Solomon came in, looking for Sam. "Have a smoke, Sol," asked Sam, indicating the

"Tank yo', boss, reckon I would."

Solomon was no fool, hence his name, and he He sneaked up behind that dude, got his lips over that cigar and puffed away like a good fellow, all without disturbing the owner thereof.

some affair in which he was interested.

"It'll all end in smoke, me boy," he declared. Solomon took another pull at the butt.

"Just like that cigar of his," remarked Sam. "There's more behind it than we know of, though," said the clerk.

"Yes, there's a little coon," observed Sam. "Aw, wait till you see the end, me boy," contin-

ned the dude. "The end will be gone if that little nig gets many was locked."

more puffs," whispered Sam to Peter. "Yes, but you don't know what's behind," put the office.

in the clerk.

out," was Sam's rejoinder.

Just as Solomon was taking another big draw at smoke out by the barn. his knees, in came Jeremiah.

smoke, and came to the conclusion that his young cigar," observed Sam to Peter. son was smoking on the sly.

omon-in a way that juvenile coon did not ap- a membah ob de chu'ch, an' I won' stan' no sich of him. Full directions and a pack of cards given prove.

He raised one big foot and gave his son and Then he went away to find Solomon, and things "Will it knock the spots out of a hand of four heir a whack with it on the cellar door of his regained their normal tranquillity. breeches.

ships, and jabbed him up against the desk in a plazza smoking, after they had registered, "if the That's all, my son. You can fall off the platform twinkling.

dropped in it, and the dude bumped heads with the to lose any time ourselves." clerk.

That made the clerk mad, and he took the dude in the mouth with his fist.

Backwards went the dude, clean over Solomon, Sam slapped a silver dollar down by his plate and my jacket?" asked the boy.

who was stooping to pick up his hat. Dude sprawled out on the floor just as Jeremiah girl in the hotel.

nob. Jeremiah's big foot flew through the air, hit had to whistle until Smart & Co. were served.

wish-bone with more superabundance of weight keep them amused.

than dexterity. and laughed till his buttons began to fly off.

dinner and Sam and Peter just stood back and hilarious." nowled.

now, hadn't lasted half a minute.

It was as funny as a circus. This wasn't all, however.

sounded the call for dinner.

Down came the boarders in a tearing hurry, as though their lives depended upon it.

Some of them, the male portion, ran into the office, intending to take a short cut, through that region, to the dining room.

The dude, kicking and splurging, had just succeeded in making Jeremiah understand that his stomach was not the proper resting-place for the latter.

Jeremiah had arisen when the stampede occur-

In rushed the male boarders and one of them, heavier than Jeremiah by a good fifty pounds, ran slap into him.

Down went that coon again, sitting in the middle of a big stone spittoon.

The latter stood it, but Jeremiah thought his Solomon let her go for the second verse:

All he had was a mineral water siphon, turned

Just then, the boss of the ranch, hearing all the racket, came in through the dining room to know what it meant.

He was nearly upset, but he managed to brace up, and asked:

"What in time is all this row about?" "Dinner's ready," shouted the boarders.

"It ain't, and won't be for an hour."

"it fell down."

you'll have to wait." out of the dining-room, for a dozen had already sold it off like lightning.

taken seats, and were all clamoring to be waited "Here we have the boss grease eradicator," he "This is Smart & Co.'s patent non-explosive "This is Smart & Co.'s pat

bell was rung by mistake."

"H'm! You're always making mistakes," sniff- you know." ed one old dame. "Sometimes it's rung too late, "Did it take the spots out of him!" asked Peter. "What would we do without yeast, fellow to eat."

the boss, mildly. ob or ever year latte aminesone med belief off. Hen of hinew to fell ent of hine was one at the point of the relation of hinew to fell without belief the was of at the point a tributed and the rest was of at the point a tribute relation.

sometimes, and I guess I don't mind that if I'm up here, and see me clean it, all for nix." The dude was busy talking to the clerk about sure of getting something."

pretty soon a lot of waiter girls came rushing the platform and Sam got to work. through the place yelling:

any one," cried the old dame, as she jumped up clean ones these days. and ran out.

In the meantime things had settled down out in spot is gone. CHANG THE RESIDENCE TO AND THE PERSONS

"No; if he did, that young coon would be kicked butt, and putting one on his head and the other in make 'em last longer, see? Takes out any spots his mouth had sloped, and was now enjoying a quiet and makes 'em good as new, not the spots. but the

behind his desk totally oblivious to everything.

He didn't notice the dude, but he did notice Sol-his skin fo' him," growled Jeremiah John. "He'm ing anything wrong, this will knock the spots out doin's."

"This must be adandy house," observed Sam to "No, but four knaves and a revolver will. Who Solomon shot forward, struck the dude amid-Peter, on the quiet, as the two sat on the front has the next box? You, sir? Thank you, sir.

"We won't, my boy." And they did not, either, for as soon as the bell earth?" began to jingle they were in the dining-room.

announced that that was for the smartest waiter

was about to rush in and give Solomon one for his The result was that both he and Peter were wait- sole kind I possess. Now git!" ed on to the queen's liking, and the other boarders The boy got, under the inducement of the sole of

nothing, and swung the big coon around like a That evening the big wagon, the horses, the ties. lights, and Jeremiah John's cornet brought the "Say, Cheeky, do you know who you're kick-He lost his balance and sat down on the dude's crowd, and Sam rattled away like a good fellow to ing?" cried the youth, as he struck the ground.

Solomon recovered his dicer, collared the butt, "you will hear something truly up-and-up, when ed Sam. "If I cleaned your jacket for you he'd the infant prodigy, the funny coon, Master Solo-think you didn't belong to him. Who wants the The dude grunted, the clerk rang the bell for mon warbles. Solomon, give the boys something next box? Only ten cents for this household trea-

Jeremiah wouldn't sing Jubilee songs for such a house so that you can have this around. Who'll The whole thing, from Jeremiah's entrance till crowd on any account, though he could shout loud take the next?" enough at a camp meeting, but Solomon had no "I'll take it," muttered a voice, and up stepped such compunctions.

He thumped away on his banjo for a few min-The big bell that the clerk rang, in his confusion utes, and then got rid of the following, the boys asked Sam. coming in heavy on the refrain.

> "Oh, chillen, what yo' gwine to do, Swingin' on de golden gate. When de debil comes a-lookin' fo' yo' Swingin' on de golden gate. Den hurry up, chillen, froo de do', Swingin' on de golden gate. An' soon yo'll reach de oder sho', Swingin' on de gorden gate."

"I'hat's a good one!" cried Sam. " Now for the chorus-all together!"

"We're swingin' on de golden gate, Yas, swingin' on de golden gate; We don' car' a cent fo' Or Nick no mo', s on on end fiel Kase we're swingin' on de golden gate."

"Oh, Petey, go tell de glor'ous news, on at full head. Dat we'se all gwine to wear de golden shoes, and this time they came in handy. So if yo' get dar befo' I do. In ploded for certain. Swingin' on de golden gate. He got down off those steps so quick that he Yo' kin bet vo' life i'll get dar too, never knew whether he walked or rode.

"Can't help it if it did. Simpkins, what made the whole crowd joined in and whooped her up in him in.

verses, the crowd yelling the refrain and the he proceeded to epen.

shouted, holding up a box. "Krocks the spots non-corrosive, anti-bilious, gilt-edged, swallow-"Dinner isn't ready, ladies," he said. "The out of everything. Tried it on a coach dog yes-tailed, white-kidded yeast cakes, put up in boxes terday, one of those white dogs with black spots, containing twenty cakes and all for the very langu-

"Well, that ain't much more'n I have to wait future reference on your coat, I suppose. Come

Thus invited, a frowsy headed youngster with The boss went away muttering to himself, and more grease than cloth on his coat, climbed upon

"Here we have this little box, you see, and a bit "Oh, the circus! let's see the circus go by." of clean rag, anything will do as long as it's clean. "H'm! guess I can see the circus as well as A dollar bill, for instance, though it's hard to find

"You rub your rag on the paste, so fashion. The circus was merely an invention of the ene- You lubricate the spot thus wise, you raise a my, and as soon as the old woman got out the door lather, as you see. You sporge it off with a little water, lots of that handy, I suppose, and the

"Clean your own clothes and make 'em last Solomon had recovered his hat and the dude's longer; if your trousers are too short, this will clothes. Tried it on a striped cat this afternoon. the dude's eigar, stooping over with his hands on The dude had gone away, and the clerk now sat When I'd finished, her own kittens didn't know

He saw Solomon stooping over, and he smelled "That was a dandy little racket, and all about a "Ten cents a box for this dirt destroyer, three for fifty cents. So you see you actually save "Ef I cotch dat boy o' mine smokin' agin, I tan money by buying a box. If a fellow spots you dowith each box.

aces?" asked Peter.

ringing of the dinner bell creates such a panic." now. That coat of yours is too big a contract; Solomon's high dicer fell off, the lighted cigar "Yes, and that's a lesson for us. We don't want can't take all those spots off. If I did, the coat wouldn't hold together. The soil there is all that gives it ground to stand on. Do you want the

"Ain't yo' goin' to give me nuthin' for cleanin'

"Well, my son, such cheek deserves a medal, of leather, and here's the leather, sole leather, the

Sam's boot, planted against his nether extremi-

"My pop is the sewer contractor of this place." "Now then, my fellow sufferers," he shouted, "He must have found you in one, then," returnsure. It's worth getting married and keeping

the worse looking tramp that ever was seen.

"Hello, what ash barrel did you come out of?"

"Do you think you can knock spots out of me?" asked that bold, bad tramp, squaring off "Haven't the least doubt of it," cried Sam, div-

ing into his interior and bringing out a bottle. "Then let's see you do it." and the tramp began to ascend the steps to the platform

Psst! biff!

Something struck that tramp right in the muzzle, spattered right and left and sent him flying backwards off those steps quicker than scat.

"Next!" cried Sam. "Peter get a stretcher and carry away the wounded." Jeremiah John, sitting under the coon

CHAPTER VI.

Sam's manner of knocking out that too previous The crowd was mightily tickled at this, and then tramp was simple enough when you knew how it

Swingin' on de golden gate. He kept a few of those things for his own use,

Swingin' on de golden gate, The tramp thought that a steam boiler had ex-

Swingin' on de golden gate."

Then the crowd guyed him most to death, and a "Well, the bell rang." "Now for the chorus, all hands," cried Sam, and special constable came moping along and gathered

You ring the bell?"

After the tramp had gone Sam went into the store
"I didn't," said Simpkins, getting frightened, Young Solomon had to sing ten or a dozen more house back of him and brought out a box, which

"Well, dinner isn't ready," said the boss, "so chorus and making Rome howl thereby. By this time Sam had sized up the audience, and tears," he shouted, "here is the nicest little article Then he had to go back and clear the women now he sprang a lot of cheap stuff on them and in the world, and sold so cheap that you really can't

and now it's too soon. I'm here now, and I'm "No, but it knocked spots out of the fleas. The boarders. Don't the sun rise in the yeast? If you going to wait. If I don't, I won't get anything greatest thing known for removing grease spots, want to rise early eat a yeast cake before going to eat." stains of all kinds, iron rust, or plain every day bed. If you want your wages raised, put a yeast. You'll have to wait over an hour, ma'am," said dirt. Come up here, my son, you have a grease cake in your pocket-book. That's the value of spot on your jacket, been laying up lunches for yeast.

"This yeast is made of hops, you ought to jump of elbow grease, and producing the highest polish at the chance I offer you and skip up here and buy in a few seconds. some. Makes the best bred biscuits you ever ate "Our two mokes use it for their complexion, Jeremiah John to be found. and takes the cake. Dough nut think I'm deceiv- and you can easily see that they are fast color and

of these celebrated no-discount up-and-up yeast just makes things shine, like a bootblack. cakes, at ten cents a box. They lighten your "Five cents for a cake of this ebony polish,

so be enlightened and buy.

"There was a young man from the East and I all Who never ate b ead made with yeast Till te ate a cream tart With the yeast sold by Smart, When he muttered 'My word, what a feast!'

won't wash-very seldom saw a coon that would, ing you. won't wash—very seldom saw a coon that would, "No, is Here you go now, the last chance to buy a box unless you made him. Tell you what, this polish though."

bread, your cares and your work at the same time, makes the stove shine like a darky belle: can be Levi Andrew Jackson George Washington Smith! used either hot or cold, in any climate, by old maids Come out here, you ebony imp," roared Peter. or married women, and never loses its luster, if it does, money refunded-if you can catch us.

"Pass 'em right out, Peter, every seventh pack-age given away, luck in odd numbers, you see. Sold a gross of 'em to a church fair last month; mon, with a grin.

Just at dusk, however, when he was thinking of driving out into the public square, there was no

"Have you seen that coon, Pete?" he asked. "No, not since supper. Sol is in the kitchen,

"Call him, won't you?"

"Hey, Solomon. Oh, Solomon, hey, you Solomon

"What yer want, Marse Peter?" asked that little

coon, as he came into the yard.

"Where's your father?" "Donno, Marse Peter," answered young Solo-



Jeremiah John, sitting under the spout of the water tank, wished for a shower. He got it. Sam was just the boy to gratify the coon's wishes. No sooner said than done. The words had scarcely left the moke's lips, when Sam yanked on the valve rope.

manner of knecking out that tee previous can get it cheaper. Here's another:

> "Old Noah he built him an ark All covered with hickory bark; He took two of each beast, And likewise Smart's yeast To lighten his way through the dark.

to the trade. They don't fly high, and they're lars, and felt decidedly satisfied. easy to catch. Get onto this:

"When Columbus came here from Genoa He said 'twas a horrible boah That he'd not in his jacket in he would be and And declared he'd torget it no moah.

cakes for ten cents. Cheapest article in the mark- and so constantly, old man." et-mark it well, my friends, and buy a box." Special occasions, my dear boy, call for special

was passing the boxes over to Peter and Solomon, pose?" who were disposing of them at railroad speed.

ed, while he took their dimes and giggled like-healthy and honest boys can sleep.

switched off upon collar-buttons, looking-glasses, mendous dissipation of going to meeting five times to return. and lastly stove polish. between sunrise and midnight.

Don't charge you anything extra for the poet-girls thought they were caramels and chewed 'em "No fibs," said Sam. "Where is he?" ry; it's all made by machinery, and, therefore, I all up; got their teeth black, Smart's tooth paste "Reckon be done go to camp meetin', boss," cleaned 'em again, white as snow. Open another replied the coon, grinning more than ever. box? Of course. Never saw such a sensible crowd as I've got to-night,"

Sam's tongue was hung on a swivel to-night, and boss, an' I spec' him keep him wo'd." the way it wagged was a caution, but he got there all the same, and that was what he wanted.

When the time came to put out the lights and said to Peter: "This style three for a quarter, special discount close up, he had raked in a cozy little pile of dol-

"Not a bad Saturday night, eh, Petey?" he said to his chum as they retired, for the partners generally collared on to a double-bedded room, so that things go on as bad as ever." they could talk over their affairs and have a quiet Of Smart's yeast a packet, smoke and chat before turning in for the night,

"We got 'em just where they lived, didn't we?" "Step up, ladies, and purchase a box of these that tongue of yours. I never heard it go so fast "To comp meetings." "I should say we did. You must have greased

All the time Sam was rattling away like this he efforts. You aren't kicking at the result, I sup-him a lesson."

"Nixey kick," said Peter, and in a few minutes Sam's nonsense took the crowd, and they laugh- both boys were in bed and sleeping, as only young,

Wise, I Next day was Sunday and the whole firm took a

dies, the handiest article you ever saw; can be good-sized town, and Sam made up his mind as coon. used without brush or water, nothing but a trifle soon as he saw the place that he would do well.

"The mischief he has! Honor bright?" "Wall, he done tol' me he war 'tendin' to go,

"All right, go and get dressed" Solomon ran off, still grinning, and then Sam

"Petey, this thing has got to be stopped, now

and here." "Trough an role of l'any box fiel. "What'll you do? Discharge him?"

"No, for we always hire him over again, and

"He's really very valuable to us."

"Of course he is; but we've got to be able to depend on him, and break up this bad habit of his of

"He goes, no matter who holds it, black, white Baptist, Methodist, or Universalist."

"I know he does, and this time I mean to give

"I'm in with you, whatever it is, Samuel."

"All right. I'll think it up." Sam did think of it. and was an cor

He found out where the camp meeting was held When the yeast cakes began to go slow Sam rest, Jeremiah excepted, for he indulged in the tre- and by which road Jeremiah would be most likely

Then he hired four strapping big country bump-"Buy our ne plus ultra lightning stove polish, la- Along in the middle of the week they struck a kins to work off a little job on that camp-meeting

He posted them concerning what they were to do

and agreed to see them again after the sale, and The one man had been provided with a lot of John to the big tree, put his back against it and

There was no Jeremiah to toot on the cornecand He would drop one in the road now and then, not move. draw the crowd, but Sam was a good all 'round dragging a string after him and leaving a scent. Then one of the men got a box, hidden in the performer and could do anything, and the way he that the dogs would be sure to follow. bushes, and took out several strings of sausages. blew the bugle was a caution to men of weak lungs.

as ever they could sing, while Solomon beat the terriers, brindle pups, lap dogs, sooners, ki-yis, him. drumusting neal good andy to gurn classis tand on

tators mightilya and moons stone vill . Stone

help carry out the racket if necessary. sausages, and with these savory morsels he coax-tied him tight. Then he and Peter drove into the square, lighted ed every stray dog in town back to where the three Ropes went around his body, legs and ankles till

Such a canine exodus was never known in the These were slung around the coon's neck, around

collies, setters, Wandering Jew dogs, Nobody's He looked like an animated sausage himself when When the crowd began to assemble, little Solo-logs and tramp pups, all followed on the trail of they got through with him: bedan to assemble, little Solo-logs and tramp pups, all followed on the trail of they got through with him: mon did a song and dance, which tickled the spec- the succulent sausage. As Sam Smart would have remarked, you never

Well fed dogs, half-starved plugs, hungry dogs sausage a sight like that.

up and got right down to business. men where waiting for Jeremiah. he was bound so securely to the tree that he could

place. his body, stuffed into all his pockets, with the ends Then he and Peter sang a hunting chorus as loud Big dogs, little dogs, hounds, mastiffs, bull dogs, dangling out, and fastened to the ropes that secured



They were there for grub, and they meant to have it. They snapped at the dangling sausages, and now and then yanked one free, Occasionally some big brute of a dog, with a voice like a thunderclap, would snap at the sausages around Jeremiah's neck, and then that scared coon would think his time had come.

bones, tambourines, and other musical instru- In the interim, Jeremiah had been coming along tug to loosen them. numerous patter songs in his own lively style.

By this time he had got his audience in a good humor, and he started the sale, putting up such things as would go most readily to begin with.

Whenever there began to be a low tide in the sale, Sam or Peter would set things to booming with a comic song or a string of jokes, and then business would be rushing.

and the crowd dispersed.

Meanwhile Jeremiah John had been having the the moon. liveliest kind of a time at the camp meeting, and was now returning.

The road was a lonely one, for he had remained long after everyone else, who lived in the heart of the town, and so had no companions.

To encourage himself, however, he sang camp meeting hymns in a loud voice, the sound being carried to a long distance in the stillness of the got nuffin', deed I hasn't." night.

The countrymen sent out to waylay him were grabbed the trembling coon. posted at various points along the road, and when the first heard Jeremiah coming, a long way off, would have fallen to the ground. he passed the word to the others by a signal previously agreed upon.

Then one of the gang hurried back to town as fast as a horse could carry him, while the others joined forces and waited for Jeremiah.

ments, and after that Sam rattled off one of his warbling some extra pious ditty in a three story voice, to keep up his spunk:

> "Chillen keep in de middle ob de road, Chillen keep in de middle ob de road, Don' yo' lock to de right, Don' yo' look to de ler But keep in de middle ob de road."

There's where he kept himself, but suddenly. Finally, at ten o'clock, the lights were put out from behind a big tree at the side of the highway, three dusky forms sprang out in the full light of dusted.

"Stand and deliver!"

"Your money or your life!"

"Throw up your hands!" Such were the blood curdling remarks of the three dime novel heroes.

Poor Jeremiah was paralyzed with fright. "Don' yo' tech me, gem'n," he wailed. "I aint

"Beware!" cried all three men at once as they to be secured.

horse's hoofs and the barking of dogs. "Hurry up, Bill, we've no time to lose."

"No more we hain't, I swan." Then those three bold, bad men took Jeremiah meal.

Peter and Moses, the dog, then did their act, and epicures, all followed, literally dogging the Sausages hung from every part of him, and they Sam and Solomon played duets on the banjo, the steps of that mounted scout.

Then the men scattered a few missing links along the road in the direction of the town.

By this time the barking of the dogs was louder and nearer. Tow could be a delineral bus betsund

In a few minutes a man dashed by on horseback, and cried out: Danoluson , Jun , man erew west

"Is everything all right?" Bailed daren for sont greaten belief

"You bet."

"Let her go then, they'll git thar, Eli."

Then the man rode on and the three conspirators THE MANUFACTURE OF STREET OF LANGUAGE AND PARTY. WOW-WOW - WOW ! DIES THE WAR T

Rrr-row-bow-wowl wood and to the grad to

The dogs were coming.

Poor Jeremiah John Joseph, et cetera!

There he stood in the moonlight, bound hand and foot to that big tree. The boat has been a foot to that big tree.

Up came the dogs and scented him at once. Oh, what a feast! The little bine war and many

Sausages everywhere, and only to be jumped at

There were more than forty dogs of every age,

He shook so that if they had not held him he size, sex, color and previous condition of servitude.

In the distance could be heard the tramp of a Black, white, yellow, brindle, spotted and mixed dogs; big, little, long, short, fat, lean, bow-legged, long-bodied, stump-miled dogs; terriers, bull pups and mongrels, all on the lookout for a square the sausages, they barked and they growled.

Poor Jeremiah was in a terrible fright, for he upon him.

hear him for the noise they made themselves.

they have paid to him? I of the balls a vibed

They were there for grub, and they meant to him any good. "These razors are neither politicians nor oarshave it.

now and then vanked one free. Occasionally some big brute of a dog, with a away like dis, an' get inter all sorts of trubble." voice like a thunderclap, would snap at the saus- Sam's lesson had apparently had the desired ef- razors. Fifty cents apiece, and a cake of soap ages around Jeremiah's neck, and then that scared fect. coon would think his time had come.

of chopped dog meat out of Jeremiah's breeches dat yo' couldn'! De boss know bes', an' de nex' trymen didn't care to spend fifty cents at a clip pocket, and made off with it.

A dozen or more precious pups put after him, Oh, Sam was a good fellow when Jeremiah was put up something else.

and then what a scrambling there was. The wise ones remained around the tree, how-

ever, and made things hilarious for Jeremiah. From yelling that coon passed on to singing jubilee songs, but even that did not terrify the

dogs. As long as there was a single sausage left they Glory Hallelujah Smith!"

were bound to stay.

There stood that coon, trembling with fright, the the missing coon. dogs jumping and barking all around him, while "Heah I is, boss!" yelled the darky, as loud as Then Sam threw out his chest, took a long breath. he sang camp-meeting tunes in a cracked and he could yell. "Heah I is. Come an' sabe me, fo' and began the following anthem: tremulous voice.

was bad enough, goodness knows.

"Fo' de Lawd's sake, why don' somebody come Sam thought the joke had gone far enough and raining, an took dese dogs away? I feel conwinced dat so he came out to liberate the unfortunate moke dey'll chew my froat in a minit."

"Ole Petey looked so wicked When I axed him fo' a ticket, Climbin' up de golden stairs. Oh, yo' orter heah him hollah When I axed him to' a---"

"G'way dar, yo' pups, g'way I tol' yo'. Does yo' wanter eat me up? Oh, de Lawd o' massy, I'se a gone coon fo' shuah!

"Dis am all de wo'k ob dot cream-colored coon, dem white niggahs what's jealous ob me, cotch Gawge Wash'n'ton Brown, 1 know it am; he 'm me, tie me to dis tree, cober me all ober wif sasjealous ob de powah I hab f'om de Lawd, in lead-sengers an' den' set de dogs on me. Bress de "There are plenty of fellows who seem to delight in in' sinnaha to 'pentance, dat's what's de mattah.

"Oh, dem dogs! G'way dar, you big beas'! times." Scat! Shoo! Get out! Oh, de bressed Lawd! I'se a dead niggah fo' suah! Dat dar Gawge Brown, de no 'count coon. He done all dis jes' to I'll neber go to anoder cam' meetin' long as I lib!" dribe me 'way f'om de meetin'.

"Oh, de rocks and de mount'ins Shall all flee away, And we shall have no hiding-place Dat day.

"Shoo! I tol' vo'! Bress de Lawd, ef eber I get when the two boys were alone. out ob dis place alibe I nebber go to anoder cam' meetin' long as I lib. De boss tol' me I mus'n', an' with a laugh. "You can't depend on a coon." I jes' run away and say nuffin', an' dis yer am a "Well, I've had some fun anyhow, and I guess and gold lace, cocked hat, big shoe buckles and jedgment fo' it.

"Wait till I cotch dat Wash'n'ton Brown, an' de res' ob dem faded out nigs! Reckin I punch deir jaws fo' dem. Dey am all jealous ob me kase I kin shout an' pray an' sing an' call de sinnahs up THINGS went along hummingly with Sam Smar darky church in town, and therefore resolved to to de anxious seat bettah dan dey kin. Oh, fo' de after his little oke on Jeremiah, and he had noth- go. lan' sakes! g'way f'om me, yo' debbil dogs, g'way ing to complain of. dis bery minnit, I tol' yo'. Sabe me, deah Lawd! Four or five days after that, he ran into a small, him till be was ready to begin the evening's bus-Why de mischief don' somebody come and shoo but very lively town, made his preliminary an-liness. dem off, I wondah?"

darky, while the dogs yelped, snapped, jumped, "I've got an idea," said Peter, suddenly, as he "Where's your father?" barked, and growled all over, under, about, and and Sam came out from supper.

around him. "Keep it, Peley, we're going to have a cold win- "Do you ever know?" By this time the sausages were pretty nearly ex-ter," said Sam. hausted, and Jeremiah's clothes were a sight to "And that is, that if Jeremiah goes to another "When is that?"

cheeks seemed to have all shrunk away. ends."

or hung out of his pockets, and for these the pups "Well, he won't revive much, I can tell him that I can watch him?" made a great scramble. that."

gone home, but there were a few of the always-doesn't." hungry breed, and they were bound to stay as long "And I'll find a way to bring him up standing, oder."

as there was any chance to get a bite. never fear." ing, sore from being tied up so tight, and mad at keeping a watch on the coon, however, to see that he gets back." being made the victim of his rival's spite, as he he did not slip away unbeknown to anybody. firmly believed.

who had worked the snap off on him.

cream-colored niggers at the camp meeting.

They had had everything their own way till Jere-dropped on the show, took up a box, and cried marry her. miah came, and then he just gobbled the cream out: ing.

They jumped upon the coon, they snapped at Consequently, it was these disappointed coons razor can be used by dudes with base-ball mustaand no one else who had thus vented their spleen ches, terriers with cast-iron beards, or the young

sausage had been cleaned out, but that didn't do facility.

"Specs I hab to stay heah all night," he wailed. men, gentlemen, for they haven't a pull; are made They snapped at the dangling sausages, and "Reckon de nex' time de boss tol' me I mus'n do of the best steel, none of your hoop iron galvanized, suffin', I min' wha' he says, an' not go sneakin' and will last a life-time.

"I declar fo' it, I won' go to 'noder cam' meetin' one!" Once a spiteful little terrier yanked a whole string as long as I lib, so dar! Yo' couldn' dribe me, The razors did not go very fast, for those countime I do jus' wha' he say, bet yo' life."

in trouble.

than an hoar, the coon heard shouts.

"Jeremiah John!"

"Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham!"

de Lawd's sake."

The dogs did not mind the singing, though it Sam and Peter came driving along in a light wagon, and saw the poor coon tied to a tree.

and send him home.

The dogs ran away as Sam jumped up and slashed about him with a long whip.

"Well, Jeremiah John, what does all this mean? You didn't show up at all this evening."

"No, boss, I didn', an' I'se berry sorry."

"Oh, you are, eh?" "Yas'r. I wen' to de cam' meetin', arter yo' said I mus'n', and den, when I'se comin' home a lot ob I wouldn't be wasteful nor would I be mean,

Lawd! I fort shuah I war a gone coon mo'n fifty

"Oh, you did, eh?"

"Yas, boss, but I gib yo' my wo'd ob honah, dat "You won't?"

"No, sah, true as I lib an' breafe."

Sam cut the ropes, he and Peter helped Jeremiah cluded to stay for another night's business in into the back of the wagon and all hands drove town. back to the hotel.

"That remains to be seen," remarked Peter, the town. he'll be good for a time. Let's go to sleep."

CHAPTER VII.

nouncements in the afternoon, and prepared for a "Solomon!" he called. Thus mused, sang, and shouted that benighted big business in the evening. "Yes'r," answered that ready coon.

They were torn, cut, scratched, covered with "Well, he won't go," said Sam, "and that sei-loud nuff to shake de windahs." dirt, grease, and dog's hair, and might have been tles it. I won't have that big, lazy coon breaking "Well, I suppose he's gone off to some prayer boiled down for soap grease. us all up every time he wants to indulge in a meeting." His wool had lost its kink, and his ebony face little religious dissipation. I'll be glad when cold "It am one ob de nights, sah," said Solomon, had grown the color of ashes, while his usually at weather comes and the camp-meeting season with a grin.

When it grew dark business began, and Sam self at the prayer meeting.

a crowd. first citizens, and loungers had gathered, Sam little boodle, and more than one coon had tried to

of the business of shouting, praying and exhort- "Here you are, gents, the best and handlest when they came in and saw Jeremiah sitting by her larticle you ever saw. Our new and improved side they were slightly mad.

man just sprouting his first chin whisker.

thought any minute he would be chewed to bits. One by one the dogs faded away, but some stayed, "No danger of cutting your cheek or taking a He tried yelling at the dogs, but they couldn't thinking perhaps that they would get a second slice out of your ear with these razors. Use 'em ration of sausage if they remained. | myself, and never draw blood. Will mow off the If they had heard, how much attention would They didn't disturb Jeremiah, for every scrap of stiffest beard or the tenderest down with equal

"Shaving is actually a pleasure if you use these

given away gratis. Step right up, gents, and buy

unless it was to go to the circus, and Sam had to "Peter, just hand out those two cent boxes of

At last, after standing tied to that tree for more blacking; this crowd hasn't any money to spend. They want a free show, a shaving ticket and a prize chromo, all for nothing.

"Some people think that the world was made ex-"Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham Isaac Moses pressly for them, and that nobody else has a right to make a living. If you tried the same game on Sam Smart and Peter Pocket were looking for them, they wouldn't like it at all, and that reminds me of a song."

"There are some folk we meet who are always complaining,

They want rain when it's clear, and the sun when it's They are always too poor, out of health, or in trouble.

If you offer them money they strike you for double, But this world isn't run by such tiresome old cranks, If it was, to some other I'd soon shake my shanks, I don't think I'd like it at all.

"There are some folk so awfully stings and mean, That they'd dine on a cracker and half a sardine. While others will rattle away every cent, And make their poor landlords go sing for the rent, As for me I would hit upon something between,

For I don't think I'd like it at all.

I don't think I'd like it at all."

Contention and strife and are all the time fightin', They are never content if they can't make a bother. And if it ain't for one reason then it's another, They may live, if they like, in confusion and strife, But I wouldn't fancy that kind of a life,

This tickled the crowd, and after that Sam sold "Good enough. See that you don't," and then everything he put up and did so well that he con-

The next evening, however, Jeremiah sneaked "Guess I fetched him this time Petey," said Sam, away, as was his wont whenever he got a chance, to attend prayer meeting in the colored church of

> He was gotten up regardless in his suit of greca all, and expected to make, as he did, a great sensation.

> It was a regular prayer meeting night, and he somehow or another found out that there was a

and a lo sound and en off he slipped, and of course Sam did not miss

"Donno, sah. Lablar out ded with her desent

"Yes'r." sensitions all be but ad enable at vs

"When he'm gone to bed, sah, fo' den he snore

"Look here, Solomon, why can't you let a fellow

Here and there a stray sausage adhered to him, "Then there'll be revivals," put in Peter. know when the regular nights come around so "Deed, sah, ebery night am areg'lar one, I fink.

Most of them had had all they wanted and had "Oh, he'll find a way to get off. You see if he Ef it ain' Baptis' it's Mefodis', or Temp'ance, or Cong'ational, or love feas' or 'vival or suffin or

"I believe you. It's sure to be something or Jeremiah was cold with fear, hoarse from shout- The subject was dismissed for the present, Sam other; anything to get off. I'll talk to him when

Jeremiah, in the meantime, was enjoying him-

He never once imagined that it was Sam Smart shot off his mouth as loud as he could yell to draw He got there tolerably early and sat alongside a

fat wench in one of the front rows. It was all George Washington Brown and the When quite a number of the oldest inhabitants, The aforesaid wench was a widow, with a snug

There were four or five of them after her, and

gall, Brudder White."

He might better have asked if she was a child of somebody to say something.

It was very affecting, but Jeremiah heard noth-darkness, for she was as black as he was himself. Jeremiah was on his feet in an instant, ready ing of it, for he was crushing the widow with all "'Specs I is, brudder," giggled the widow.

"Bress de Lawd!" "Amen, brudder!"

ob hommony in de singin'. Eberybody jine toged-voice rolling about among the rafters,

trab'lers to de promise lan', I wanter ax yo' a ques-flake and Hambone did get!

"Who'm dat big brack niggah settin' side o' Mis' Jeremiah soon came in with his big voice and tion, and Jeremiah squeezed the widow's hand and

Wilson, Brudder Sampson?" asked one dizzy old drowned all the rest of the congregation."

darky beau of his neighbor in a hoarse whisper.

"Dunno, sah, but I fink him got a mighty big three verses had been sung, "but dere am a lack mish endangered the roof by the way he sent his

"Yas'r, an' dat ain' de propah sperrit to show at der in de las' verse."

The leader made a few remarks, and one of the Everybody did join, but Jeremiah discounted sisters related her experience, after which a broth"Sistah, am yo' one ob de chillen ob light?" the whole of them, and beat them by a hundred er showed what an awful villain he had been and asked Jeremiah presently, nudging up close to the points.

Widow Wilson.

What a superlative angel in cream color ne now was, all through having joined the church.

Then the leader read a short chapter, and asked was, all through having joined the church.

and willing to say a good many things. his might.
"Bred'ren an' sistahs, toilahs by de wayside, How furious Brothers White, Sampson, Snow-



The mule wouldn't move. Jeremiah was in despair. "Fo' de Lawd's sake, what I do now?" he gasped, giving the obstinate animal a final whack. "Spec my time am come, fo' shuah, ef I wait fo' dat muel to git across de track."

as Jeremiah John took her fat hand in his.

down on his marrow-tones in the pew and yanked an' slashin' ob teef? the Widow Wilson down alongside.

never stopping by the way.

ed, "spread de gospul froo all de lan' an' soften de yo' wanter get dat sperrit, chillen? Co'se yo' does, hearts ob dy chillen. Make 'em jes' like a lump o' dough, deah Lawd, so's ye can mol' 'em jes' any pray."

way yo' wanter. "Look down on all dese chillen an' tote 'em up to the frone ob glory. Ef dev do'n' wanter come, alongside, and yelling out: jes' cotch 'em by the slack ob de breeches an' yank went de debil f'om gittin' 'em.

"Bress all dese trablers in a weary lan', bress count when dere's sinnahs to be sabed." me, bress de deah sistah by my side an' bress eberybody what b'longs to dis church. Gadder in all and then his breath gave out and he had to quit.

"Amen!" groaned several coons, and then a noplize de hull meetin'." black-and-tan maiden in a yellow dress with purple ribbons and a red bonnet, tackled the melodeon "ef he didn' monoplize de widdah so much. Wha' Tell you, he was a big fellow in her eyes after and made it grunt.

"Sing de fo'ty-fo'fe hymn in de collection," "He am a rantin' hyp'critter, dat wha' he am.

cried the leader, taking the desk.

The organist played the accompaniment and Brother Hambone, "an' dat am de trufe." then a few stray voices started in on the hymn. Deacon Bighead then got up and made an ora-the whole field in the widow's affections.

"Don' yo' fink dat a pra'r or two mought do yo' tion. Hab yo' made up yo' min' war yo' am gwine good afo' de meetin' begin, sistah?"

"Specs it would, brudder," gurgled the widow in de sweet fiel' ob Eden, or am it in de lan' ob fiah "Ef it warn't agin de rules ob de church to car' "Den, le's pray, sistah," and Jeremiah flopped roas' dem on de coals, an' whar dere am wailin' off ter-night," growled Brother Sampson.

If power of lung makes prayer more effective, sall demselves chillen' ob de Lawd? Don' yo' I broke him jaw." Jeremiah's petitions must have gone straight up, make no mistake brudders, don' yo' go to deseibin' yo' selves, sistahs. Yo' am'nt de Lawd's chil-lated his own experience, and knocked the other "Oh, Lawd, bress all dis con'gation," he shout- len onless yo' got de right sperrit in yo'! Don' fellow's confession silly.

Down went Jeremiah again, hauling the widow

He went on in this strain for about ten minutes

de coons in town, deah lawd, an' ef dey don' come, Snowflake," whispered Brother White. "He mo-trumpet."

"Don' car' so much fo' dat," muttered the other, down. yo' fink, brudder Hambone?"

He on'y jes' come heah fo' to mash," answered

and brimstun, whar de debil cotches sinnahs, to razors, bet yo' life I'd cut de top o' dat coon's head

"He am freshah dan buttah what ain't salted," "How many ob my bred'ren heah to-night kin remarked Brother White. "Ef I didn' hab 'ligion

When Jeremiah had recovered his wind he re-

All the sinners from Cain down to the present ef yo'm de chillen ob de bressed Lawd. Les' day, if they had been rolled into one, could not have equaled him in his enormity of crime, according to his own account.

He had committed murders by the score, had forty wives, broken into seven banks, swilled "Bress de Lawd. Come right down yer into hogsheads of rum, gambled away millions, outem in, any way to get 'em in, good lawd, an' pre-dis con'gation. Neber min' de shingles, but come sworn all the pirates that ever were, beaten his right down froo de roof. Plast'rin' am ob no wife, stolen chickens and set fire to the house lots of times.

"Tol' yo' what, brudders an' sistahs, I war a reg'lah roarah, 'deed I was, but now I'se sabed, an' "Dat buck niggab am too prebious, Brudder I'se gwine stret up to glory when Gab'el blow him

How the widow did smile upon him when he sat -

that, and he knew it. Didn't those other coons get terribly jealous?

Why, they were fairly green with envy. He had outlied the whole of them and distanced he asked, when he sat down. Jeremiah John Joseph am 'roun', I tol' yo'.

unutterable things.

It had to break up at last, and Jeremiah had the The widow lived quite a distance out of town, wind-up, much to the disgust of his rivals.

down the aisle with her two hundred pounds of tricts, and was hoofing it along the road, four coons dusky leveliness hanging on his arm. suddenly jumped out from behind a tree, and

When he disappeared down the street those grabbed him. frozen-out coons held a council of war on the meeting-house steps.

"Kin I see yo' hum aftah de meetin', sistah?" covlden'. Common niggahs ain' got no show when

"'Specs yo' kin, brudder," she giggled, looking "Didn't dey look mad when I come out ob de church wif de widdah on my ahm: Well, I guess than half cover his stomach. The meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. Oh, dey'd jes' like to chaw me up, dat's wha'

and Jeremiah's road was a lonely one.

Then he coupled on to the widow, and sailed Before he reached the more thickly settled dis-

"Try to cut us out, will yo'?"

"Fink yo'm drefful smart, don' yo'?"

It was either that or go naked, however, and he couldn't think of the latter.

First he put on the shirt, which did not more

The meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies into the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of those long-drawn-out, not. On, doy dies in the meeting was one of the meet

Then he pulled, or rather dragged, on the breeches, which, in order to meet the shirt, had to be hauled up nearly to his knees.

He managed to button them around him, but didn't dare to take a long breath, for fear of causing an explosion.

Then he put on the jacket, the tails scarcely com-



Now that the train had gone by Jeremiah's view was unobstructed, and he saw that mule putting towards home at the top of his gait. For a moment that poor coon was speechless. "Dere goes my fi' dollahs!" he finally remarked.

brother Snowflake.

served brother Sampson. "Tol' yo' what we do," said brother White.

"What am dat?" asked all the other brothers in breeches and shirt. chorus.

pride out'n um." "Like to gib him a coat ob tah an' fedders, place singed chicken.

ob dat stunnin' one he wear," sputtered brother Hambone.

"Jus' wait fo' me, bredren, an' we fix him." Then brother White hurried down a side street, way yo' kin." and presently returned with a bundle under his

arm. "Specs we'd bettah hurry ef we wanter cotch of old clothes. dat coon," he muttered.

from which Jeremiah would be coming.

the gate with her until it threatened to break down, treating forms of his four persecutors. and finally wished her good-night.

"Tol' yo' what, ef my ol' woman wasn't waitin' opened the bundle. fo' me to hum, I'd jes' like ter shin up to dat gal," A boy's jacket, shirt and trousers was what it de back ef I do." he remarked, as he started toward the hotel contained. "She'm de lubliest critter I see in a long time, an' "Gorry! dem fings wouldn' fit my boy Solomon," bockers?" she hab lots ob money.

distime. Dey couldn' hol' a candle to me, dey dese?"

equitioning when blue and all his limit elections and action of the contract o

rother Snowflake.

"Reckon we hab to do suffin', else he tote ed While brother Snowflake and brother Hambone He was obliged to bunch himself all up in a other two coons yanked off that gorgeous coat, in the clothing department. vest and hat, and left him standing only in his His elbows stuck out as if he were carrying bun-

Then they suddenly tripped him up, threw him too weak to hold him up, "Make him look ridickerluss, an' take all de on the ground, and sat on him, while Messrs. Sampson and White stripped him as clean as a

"Don' yo' do dat," spoke up brother White. bundle on the ground and gathering up Jeremiah's tearin' mad, but I don' see how I kin help it." things. "Jcs' yo' put dem on, an' get 'long de bes'

Then those coons dusted, leaving Jeremiah cigar, when a queer-looking figure entered.

The weather was not cold, but it was not warm sitting or standing around. Then all four of them hurried on in the direction enough to go around with nothing on, and Jeremiah began to shiver and shake.

That festive coon saw the widow home, hung on The moon shone bright, and showed him the re-

"Wha' am I got ter put on?" he muttered as he

gasped Jeremiah, holding them up in the moon-"H'm! reckon I cut out all dem col'd mashahs light. "How yo' 'specs I'se gwine to get inter

"Wha' we do wif dat ornary coon?" asked "Yo' kean't trample on our feelin's fo' nuffin, I ing to his waist and the sleeves reaching only to the

widder 'way f'om us, right undah our noses," ob- held Jeremiah so that he could not escape, the small compass, for fear of causing a general strike

dles; his back was bent over and his knees looked

In this manner he started for home, not daring to walk too fast for fear of a wreck.

"Jes' 'magine how I look wif dese little close on me!" he grunted. "'Specs dev fink I'se growed too "Dere yo' am," cried brother White, throwing a fas', an' dat nuffin' 'll fit me. Bet de boss be Sam, having finished business for the night, was

standing by the desk in the hotel office, smoking a nothing but his shoes and stockings and a bundle Peter was sitting in a chair tipped up against the little counter, and three or four countrymen were

In came Jeremiah John, clad in his misfits, and

looking like a scareerow.

All hands laughed and Sam said:

"Why, Jeremiah, how you have grown?"

"Why don't you stand up straight?" asked Peter. "'Fraid to, Marse Petey. Specs dis coat split up

"Where did you get the high water Knicker-

"Catch on to the baby's shirt?"

"Been changing clothes with Solomon, have you?"

Poor Jeremiah John looked solemn enough when

He began to blubber, and big tears ran down his sion. neber was a poy sen on an ebony cheeks.

steaks exposed for sale, while a deep sigh escaped presume." him.

"It am bad 'nuff to be robbed an' mos' killed ef yo'll take it out'n my wages." wifout bein' made fun ob aftahwuds," he re-.narked. d lerennan. " El dat marany buy I :

Everybody laughed, Peter nearly fell off his miah. chair and Sam roared. bearing and out . tovo woll

ched to consede a

That broke Jeremiah all up.

The uniform, by the way, had been returned, he came in, but now he looked as though life were wrapped up in paper, per a small colored boy that fourteen miles away." a perpetual funeral. "Yo' don' say!" gas

"Yes, and you looked like a fright," said Sam. His lips expanded and looked like two beef- "The uniform has been pawned by this time, I he left."

"I'se berry sorry, boss, an' I'll pay fo' de close

"I don't want you any more," said Sam, firmly. road." "Don' wan' me no mor', boss?" murmured Jere-

"No, sir. I don't want you." "Am I discharged, boss?" "Why, the wagon has gone on to Whitneytown,

"Yo' don' say!" gasped Jeremiah, surprised in

"Yes, sir. I heard Mr. Smart say so just before

"Fo'teen mile, yo' say it am?"

"Yes, sir, a good fourteen miles." "De kyars go froo dere, I s'pose?"

"No, it lies away from the line of the rail-

"Specs yo' kin go somewhars near it on de

"No, the first stop is at Jonesville, and that's twenty miles from it, to the east."



Poor Jeremiah John looked solemn enough when he came in, but now he looked as though life were a perpetual funeral. He began to blubber, and big tears ran down his ebony cheeks. "It am bad 'nuff to be robbed an' mos' killed wifout bein' made fun ob aftahwuds," he remarked.

sad to see.

tore his tiny shirt to ribbons.

"Get out of here, you great calf!" cried Sam. "You've been off to meeting, I suppose, and acted fresh, and the coons have hunk on you. Get out!" "Jes' listen to me a secon', boss," pleaded Jere-

miah, vainly trying to hold his garments together. "Get out!" eried Sam again, emphasizing the command with the toe of his boot.

Jeremiah yelled and gct out, leaving behind him in his sudden flight the remains of what had once Sam had said, "so you needn't come hanging that." been a small boy's trousers.

"Somebody has committed a breach of the piece," said Sam, "and here are the pieces of the left. breeches."

ordinary clothes, those he wore when not on dress jes' whar eber dey go. Ef I don' ride in de waggin' parade.

"You ran away last night, Jeremiah?" said Sam.

"Yas'r," said the penitent moke.

"And went to meeting?"

"Yas'r, bat I won' do it agin."

"You disobeyed orders."

"Yas'r, but I got de wust ob it. 'Clar' to good-ler de waggin putty soon." ness. I'll neber go inside a col'd chu'ch agin." "You had your uniform stolen from you?"

"Yas'r, dem coons do dat an' sen' me home jes' like yo' sawn me."

He fairly howled with grief, and the result was | "Yes. If you try to go with us I'll have you "Fo' goodness sakes!" arrested and put in the lockup."

His pent up emotions, when they finally burst Then Sam went off to his breakfast, and when miles from here, and then you keep straight on up, caused his Tom Thumb coat to split clear up the big wagon drove away an hour later, Jeremiah across the track." the back, sent all his waistband buttons flying and John Joseph Abraham and-all-the-rest Smith was not in his accustomed place.

CHAPTER VIII.

JEREMIAH JOHN was again bounced.

Sam Smart had paid him off and had gone away without him.

"I don't want to have any more to do with you." around. You're discharged for good and all."

"Dev can't shake me like dat," muttered Jere-The next morning Jeremiah came down in his miah, after the wagon had gone. "I foller dem dere?" Jeremiah asked at length. I reckin I kin walk."

> Having thus determined he walked into the hotel office and looked around.

"Hallo, Whitewash, what are you doing here?" the fellow asked.

"Oh, I'se lookin' roun' dat's all. I specs to fol-

"Follow the wagon?" said the clerk, evidently much surprised.

"Yas'r, dat's wha' I said. Reckin I kin walk ears. dat lilly way easy 'nuff."

"The road crosses the railroad about five or six

"Den de kyars ain' no good?"

"Not a bit."

"How much yo' charge to take me dere in a waggin?"

"About ten dollars."

"Laws a massy! I don' wanter buy de waggin!" stammered that poor moke.

"That's as little as we can charge."

"Ain' dey anoder lib'ry stable in de hull town?" "Yes, but they'll all charge you more than

"Sakes alibe! dat am rob'ry-reg'lar highway Then the wagon drove away and Jeremiah was rob'ry. I wouldn' pay dat much to nobody." "All right," said the clerk, lighting a cigar.

"Amn't dey a stage or nuffin' wha' goes ober

"Yes, there's a stage goes on Saturday: regular fare, four dollars."

"Don' it go 'fore Sat'day?"

"No, and if the weather isn't pleasant, it won't go then."

"Lor' me! dis yer place mus' be drefful out ob de way-no railroads, no nuffin'."

"Yes, it is rather isolated," said the clerk. "H'm! wha' dat?" asked Jeremiah, cocking his

"I say it's rather isolated."

"H'm! I spec so; I neber heah tell ob de man myse'f, but I reckon he do lib dere, if you say so. Putty big fellah, guess?"

"Oh, yes," answered the clerk, with a snort, "very much so."

Then Jeremiah walked out of the hotel and saun-nohow."

tered leisurely down the road. "Fo'teen miles am mo' dan I wanter tackle," he muttered. "De day am bery wahm and eben wif

dis brella I reckon I get reg'ly beat out."

a big green cotton umbrella with a horn handle, "Tol' yo' wha' I do, sah," the old man finally ed Jeremiah. "Ef dat warmy boy I took a strap and this he now had with him.

you could see a block away.

suit and big umbrella, and was sure to attract attention wherever he went.

of town, but it was not the only one.

Those four jealous coons who had waylaid him fus' class." the night of the prayer meeting might be looking for him again for all he knew.

One interview with those mokes was all he want-dan dat," growled the aged African.

ter.

what bothered him most of all.

his way, and kept on slowly till he reached the end dat." of the town.

the side of the road, there being a little cottage lower, no sah!" close by where a raft of darky youngsters were Jeremiah balanced the two alternatives in his hankerchers fo' a hund'ed headen in furrin lan's,

playing on the stoop. An old, very dilapidated looking mule was graz- A fourteen-mile walk in the broiling sun was no to go ridin'. ing in a corner of the lot, and attracted Jeremiah's slouch of a job, and well might be hesitate to un- "Jeremiah, yo'm a awful sinnah, an' ef yo' don'

attention more than anything else.

the fence.

"Good-mo'nin' to yo', sah," said the aged darky, pausing in his work.

"How am de crops doin' up yer way, sah?" "Putty fa'r, putty fa'r, ef it warn't fo' de 'tater bugs an' de co'n wums an' dry spells, an' de chillen but oderwise t'ings is gwine along putty well."

"Yessir, dat mule am one ob de fambly, an' de the field. way dat one kin-an' kick! Whoa! Gorra- wanted, his humor changed. mighty! how him heels do fly when he's riled!" He wasn't going to be caught and hired out for up and down dusty hills. and the aged African laughed till the tears ran that small amount if he knew it.

"Am he a good saddle mule, dat yer critter?" "Yas'r, yo' kin ride dat yer mule anywhars, He led those darkies the wildest kind of a chase, be, and found abundant themes for thought. he kick an' raise de berry debbil."

"Beckon yo' sell dat mule ef yo' git a fair offah,

uncle?"

down his cheeks.

"Yas, I sell 'um ef I gits de price ob him." "Wha' you fink 'bout de right figgah fo' dat ol'

plug, uncle?" "Yo' wanter buy him, sah?"

mule jes' now dis minnit."

the old coon, scratching his head.

Hund'ed dollah fo' dat ol' pile o' bones," he forty rods away. muitered. "Specs of yo' get fo'ty yo's doin' fus'- This sort of business was repeated several tin' yo'se'f up as mo' 'count dan de Lawd. Pra'r

"Fo'ty dollah fo' dat mule." "Ha h'm," gruated the old coon.

"Won' gub yo'dat. Won' gub mo'n twenty fo' dat don' orter lib."

him."

sah. Jas' sider de lots ob ways yo' kin make dat chase, got the mule in a corner, and caught him. Then, still imagining that he was leading a prayer mule ob use." adominate that formulate " nh

gib yo'twenty dollah fo' him, nohow.'.

make a offah?" asked the owner of the mule, try-temp' dis col'd man, an' make um fo'get he'm a ing to pin Jeremiah down to positive figures.

of he war-"

"Yo' kin take him fo' dat."

cried Jeremiah. "I didn' say I gub yo' ten dollah, "'Specs de debbil know he kin make me sw'ar I on'y said as how I mought. Ten dollahs am a an' g t bilin' mad, contrary to de rules ob de lot ob money to gub fo' a muil what yo' donno chu'ch, an' so he sen' dat yer muel fo' to be his nuffin' 'bout,"

"Wall, what yer gub fo' him den?" asked the old whar. Mos' made me sw'ar two, free times." darky, bound to get down to solid fact at once.

air. "What! On'y fi' dollahs fo' dat eddicated Then one of the young coons went off to fetch a habn't, not fo' a cent. Glong dar!" muel?"

" Dat's all." "Sho!"

"Dat am all him wuff." and ad accoling on T

"Wha' yo' wan' him fo'?" q , reging at qu beggar "Jess ter ride ter de nex' town."

"An' yo' habn't no use fo' him aftah dat?"

"No, sah. I don' spec he lib much mo' dan dat,

"Den yo' jes' wanter ride to de nex' town?" " Ah'm."

The old darky scratched his head, the mule turn- wha' make yo' brudderso long." ed his head around and the darky youngsters "Specs of yo' wait fo' him to git yer, ,o, it'll be Jeremiah boasted, among his other possessions, stopped playing. "bout time to go to bed when he git back" mutter-

town an' yo' kin leabe him dar, an' de nex' time I he would soon be away.

aftah I reach de nex' town." That was one reason why he wished to get out "I high yo' dat muel fo' fi' dollahs, an' yo' kin "Specs yo' bettah gub me de money afo' yo' grt

"Fi' dollahs to borry dat yer ol' plug?"

The sooner he got out of town, therefore, the bet- an unearthly bray, pounded the fence with his mount by the old darky, the boys, the neighbor, hind heels, and cut across the lot.

cheap."

mind, and concluded to hire the mule.

dertake it.

was far preferable to walking just then.

"When yo' wanter staht?" "Right away dis minnit."

brudder cote'h um.'

snorting and acting like a very demon.

long as yo' don' pull too pow'ful on de lines. Den and was like the Hibernian's flea, at not being cap- "Dis am de way dat de 'pentant sinnah rides

donno nuffin."

Presently the mule allowed the boy to approach | "Den when he finks he guess he kin hoe his most docile animal in creation.

"Wha' yo' say to a hund'ed dollahs, sah?" asked heels, and away he cut. The young coon was sprawled out upon the "Now, bredren, yo' wanter saddle de gospil, an'

I wouldn' let nobody else hab him fo' dut." | war mine?" asked Jeremiah.

"Kill um bery quick. Sech a big fool muel as ter git dar.

"Twenty dollah am chear fo' a mule like dat, the neighbors, and the old nig's wife joined in the teenf wusses. Sing, brudders, sing."

would have been.

"Wha' yo' gub fo' him den, sah, ef yo' wuz ter "Reckin dat muel jes' sent by de ol' debbil to membah ob de chu'ch," he mused when they were "Dunno, sah, mought gib yo' ten dollah fo' him le ding the mule across the field.

The animal was as mild us you please now, we ain' got no use fo' dem early shoes, though there was no knowing when he would break

serbant. Nebber did see sech a pesky critter no-then he stopped so suddenly that Jeremiah was

The old nig, the youthful coons, the neighbor, "Fi dollahs," said Jeremiah with a positive the old woman and Jeremiah flually led the mule yo' top right yer, in de middle ob de road? Yo' up to the hitching-post outside of the fence.

> bridle, for Jeremiah would have to ride bareback, the mule's owner not possessing a saddle.

munk, stone a bullfrog, watch a big sucker in a quiet pool of the little brook, see if the red hen had stolen another nest, and climb a tree before his return, and all this took time.

"Dey neber war a boy sen' on an erran' yit, wha' didn' stop to do a hund'ed fings ob no 'count afo' he got back," mused the aged coon. "Whar in time dat boy be all dis time? Yo, Neb, go an see

to um. Reckin dat make him mo' sudden."

His uniform was with Sam and he wore in its "Wha' dat?" However, the boy returned with the bridle after place a very loud checked suit, the pattern of which "I high out dat muel to yo', to go to de nex' an absence of half an hour, and Jeremiah thought

He was a very conspicuous coon with his loud go ober dar I kin fotch him back." It took some time to harness that mule, how-"Dat's a' right. I done got no use fo' de muel ever, simple as it seemed, and more time was wasted.

> leabe him at de lib'ry stable. De man knows me on de animile's back," suggested the old coon. "He'm a mighty tricky beas', an' he might run away wif yo' afo' yo' had time to pay me jes' fo' "Wall, I reckin' yo' couldn' git anyfing cheaper debbiltry, an' I wouldn' like to run de resk."

Jeremiah John thereupon planked down his five The mule seemed to think so too, for he let out dollars for the hirs of the mule, was assisted to the old woman and the neighbor's wife, and hoist-How to get to Whitneytown without walking was "Dere, do muel hisself tink he's gwine too ing his big umbrella grabbed the bridle strap and rode away.

He started off, saw no wagons or carriages going "H'm, dat money orter buy two, free muels like "Wall, heah I am at las' on de road," he ejaculated. "Fought I neber would git stahted. Fi' dol-"Wall, sah, yo' kin take him or leabe him, jis lahs fo' dis critter! Shucks! he wouldn' fotch dat Here he saw an old darky working in a field by yo' like. Dat am de price, an' I don' go no much for old glue! Dat's wha' it cos' to hab de follies ob dis worl'. Dat fi' dollahs 'ud buy pockeran' heah I is, a membah ob de church, spennin' it

'pent ob yo' sins I dunno wha's to become ob yo'. "Good-mo'nin', uncle," he said, stepping up to The mule might not be a racer, but to be carried De idee ob wastin' fl' dollahs on a muel when money am wanted to spread the gospil in furren pahts. "I'll gub yo' fi' dollahs," the puzzled cocn finally Yas, an' in pahts what isn't so furren, I reckon. Why, dat yer money would pay de pahson's salary down in Blacktown fo' a monf. Jes' fink wha' waste."

"Bery well. H'yar, you Andy Jackson, go fotch On jogged the mule at an even pace, and Jeregettin' tooken sick jes' when dey's wanted de mos', dat mule. 'Poleon Bonypart, yo' go an' he'p yo' miah, finding this much more agreeable than walking, had plenty of time to indulge in reflections.

"Am dat yo' animile ober dar, sah?" asked Jere- Away went the whole tribe of youngsters to catch The road ran up hill and down, now under archminh, indicating the mule with a nod of his head, the mule, who was now in the furthest corner of ing trees which threw a grateful shade, again through an open country where fields of ripening one what do de leas' wo'k an' eat de mos' cb any ob He had been a mild, inoffensive creature when grain, orchards, farms, meadows and distant us. Lor' me, nebbah, yo' neber see a mule eat de there was no need for him, but now that he was woods stretched out before the sight, now over bridges where the water babbled merrily, and then

The mule jogged on at an even pace, needing no He raced all over the lot, kicking up his heels, particular urging from his rider, who, with his big umbrella spread, rode on as contentedly as could

froo dis wale ob tears," he remarked. " When he "Whoa dar, creeter!" cried Napoleon. "Wha' gib hisse'f up to de Lawd an' trus' to de gospil yo' make sech a fool o' yo'self fo'? Spec's you eberyfing go smoof an' fine, an' all him trubble am

and even get hold of his head, appearing to be the own row wifout de 'sistance ob de Lawd de debbil steps in an' de road gits rough, dere am stum'lin' "Yas'r, ef de price am conwenient I buy de The moment that dusky youth attempted to lead blocks in his way, he ride de bery ol' debbil ob a him, however, down went his head, up flew his mule, an' dere's bumps an' jolts, an' all sawts ob diffenity.

Jeremiah jumped six feet. _____ grass, while Mr. Mule stood quietly by the fence, use de bridle ob fait on yo' journey froo dis worl' lef yo' wanter hab a easy time ob it, an' not go settimes until all hands got very much disgusted. an' 'pentance am de sturrups, faif an' hope am de "I let yo' hab him fo' dat, sah, seein' it's yo', but "Does yo' know wha' I do wif dat mule ef he reins, a yumble sperrit am de saddle, an' salwation am de town you'm headin' fo'. Jes' take all "Specs I don'. Wha' yo' do wif um?" dese tings an' ride de hoss ob belief an' yo's boun'

"Bredren, les' sing to de glory ob de Lawd, de Finally the old nig, Jeremiah, all the boys, one of fo'ty sebent hymn, leabin' out de fo'teenfand seben-

Lis operation had taken a good hour, and meeting. Jeremiah John Joseph ad finitum Smith "Yas'r, I done 'sidered dat a'ready, but I won' Jeremiah was as hot and mad as any heathen let out the harmony that was in him to the following impromptu hymn:

"Oh, de wheel ob time am a-turnin' roun', Glory hallelnyer!

I spec' dat de bressed lan' am foun', Glory hal'eluyer! Kase de angel Gab'el shout de news,

"Hol' on, hol' on, jes' yo' wait a lilly bit, uncle," out again. enly goose, Oh, glory halle-halleluyer, oh?" The mule stood all this till the last refrain and

> nearly thrown over the animal's head. "G'up dar, yo' ol' fool!" he growled. "Wha' fo'

spec I done got to de end ob my journey? Well, I The mule, however, refused to budge an inch.

"G'long I tol' yo'," cried Jeremiah. "Reckin The little moke had to stop and chase a chip, yo'm not gwine to stop jes' kase I git to singin'

Sing all I'm min'ter, jes' yo' see ef I don', yo' ob- wasn't going to be included in the wreck if he "Keep right stret on an' yew'll come tew t'other stinet eritter!" September 11 of the septem

ings.

" Sam' Petey, he stan' at de gate ob heaben, Oh, brudders won' yo' come along? De gate um open till de clock strike 'leben, Hurry up, brudders, jes' yo' come along! Yo' kean't git in when de night come down, An' den ol' Satan come snoopin' roun', An' tote yo' off to him hole in de groun'-Whoa, brudders, come right along, Glory, glory halleluyer, oh!"

That long suffering mule evidently knew that if Jeremiah's own senses gave the reply as soon as he stood still he would have to endure no end of the question was put. this kind stuff and so he bolted.

The way he did hoof it along the road, up hill bleeding mass of hash. and down, through dust and mud, over stones and In fact he hadn't been injured in the least. over planks, was a caution to thoroughbreds, and nearly scared Jeremiah out of his wits.

both heels into the creature's side, and hang on to

his mane with all his own might.

Rattlety-bang went that mule's hoofs on the road, towards home at the top of his gait. while Jeremiah got a worse shaking than if he had the chills, tom be an absence on Amode ours sing the 11

few scattered houses, and then the railroad track was reached.

The mule was on the track when a sudden sound was heard.

"Whoo-hoo! toot-toot!"

A train was coming. The mule stopped stark still.

There he was, right on the track, and a train ap-journey.

proaching, not a quarter of a mile away. The shock of the sudden halt nearly threw Jeremiah off again.

He glanced up the track and saw the train coming.

an' de kyars a comin'?"

The mule refused to budge. Nearer came the train.

Jeremiah yanked on the reins.

If the mule wouldn't go ahead, he might retreat.

No, he wouldn't do either. Toot_toot_toot!

The engineer saw him and sounded the signal of knows myse'f." warning.

"G'long dar!" yelled Jeremiah. That cranky mule wouldn't stir a peg.

Jeremiah grabbed his big club with a firm grasp and belted the mule over the head, ribs, and flanks.

"Glong I tol' yo'. Don' yo' see de kyars a-com-

The mule planted his hoofs more firmly on the track and wouldn't stir.

Jeremiah banged away with his club and used all his powers of persuasion to make the mule go on.

No use.

The train was now not more than five hundred feet away.

mule didn't scare for a bad half cent. He stood his ground like a major, and Jeremiah

couldn't make him give way an inch. "G'long dar!" and the club took him across the

distant.

The mule wouldn't move. Jeremiah was in despair.

" Fo' de Lawd's sake, what I do now?" he gasped, giving the obstinate animal a final whack. "Spec my time am come, shuah, ef I wait fo' dat muel and kept on at a fairly good jog. to git ober de track."

concerned, would have come to an end.

railroad track, directly in the way of an approach- way." ing train, had suddenly taken it into his stupid, "Goodness sakes alibe! Reckin' I walked nuff self-willed head not to budge. " fo' one day a'ready."

Jeremiah had broken his umbrella banging it "Did you come all way along this 'ere rud?" over the mule's ribs in a vain attempt to make him "Yas'r, all de way, fe'teen miles." go forward or back, and all the time the train was "Wall, why in time didn't yew take the tother getting nearer.

It was now within a hundred feet or less, and tew Whitney's in no time." the engineer had just let out a final shriek of warn- "Wall, I reckin' I bettah turn back, and take de

jis' to' dat critter's obstinacy," muttered Jeremiah, lots an' jine the other rud jes' 'fore it comes tew the "Ef he wanter stay an' git runned ober by de kyars, taown." he am welkim, but I'se gwine to dus'."

Then he threw up one leg, slid off the mule's "Yas, that's the shortest way." "Oh, about back, and put for the side of the road." "Bery much 'bliged. Reckin I bettah do dat," to stop is."

He might lose that five dollar mule, but he and Jeremiah and the rustic parted company.

knew himself. views to strong out in the voil be Thereupon Jeremiah began to warble some more "Dat am jis' like a mule," he remarked disgust- Jeremiah started to get over a stone wall, tumwithout any regards whatever to the mule's feel-edly. "Dey habn't any mo' sense dan-dan a-bled six or eight feet of it down and landed on top dan a muel, dat's what dey habn't-fo' de lan' of a full-grown thistle.

sakes i'll an well and vendum han andrew all eve clamation? to north your con the netton that ed Mair

The train had just gone by with a whizz and a Straight on over the fields went Jeremiah, singance, sail of search worthing about no because !

The mule. Oh, where was he?

It wasn't necessary to ask the winds or any of the elements this simple question.

That mule was by no means a mangled and

The moment Jeremiah had left his back he had whisked about and gone up the road, the way he He just had time to close that big umbrella, dig had come, with the speed of the wind.

Now that the train had gone by, Jeremiah's view coon. was unobstructed, and he saw that mule putting

For a moment that poor coon was speechless. "Dere goes my fi' dollahs!" he finally remarked. Down the road, over a bridge, up a hill, past a "Dat mule am as cute as the debbil hisself."

Jeremiah yelled after that mule, but he might have saved his breath for all the effect it had. Away went that self-willed mule toward home,

he got. Finally he disappeared entirely from sight, and

Jeremiah turned sadly away and resumed his

"Dar goes my fl' dollahs as fas' as it kin go," he muttered. "Ef I'd knowed dat, I wouldn't er gub dat nigger mo'n a dollah an' a half."

The railroad crossing was about half way be- speed. tween the town he had left, and the one he was right in the face of the rushing bull. "G'long dar, yo' ol' fool! Don' yo' see de injine bound for, so that he still had a matter of six or seven miles to travel.

"Drat dat yer muel," he muttered, as he walked on, "ef it hadn't er been fur his cussedness, I'd be mos' to de town by dis time. Ef I wasn't a mem-tioning. bah ob de chu'ch, I'd like to sw'ar at dat animile. Reckon he war one ob de debbil's agents, sen' f'om de pit jes' to temp' me; but I'se not gwine to ing. be tempted by any ole fi' dollah mule, not ef I

On he walked, musing on the vicissitudes of life, ing very much broken up. Sometimes the road was shady and pleasant and again it was hot and dusty, and at these latter times poor Jeremiah's scul was very much tried.

"Gorry! I jes' wish I hadn' been sich a fool as to go to de meetin' agin de boss' o'dahs," he muttered, wiping the sweat from his brow. "Ef 1'd done as de boss say, I wouldn' be trab'lin' dis ter'ble road jes' like a tramp."

he sat on a stump and remarked, independently: "H'm! a heap I car' 'bout Sam Smaht or de hull

lot ob 'em! Reckin I'se habin' jes' as good fun as dey is. Don' tend to go back till I get good "n' ready, an' if I wanter go to pra'r meetin', I'se The whistle tooted and the bells rang, but the gwine ebery time, an' don' yo' fo'git it."

same general direction so far as he could tell.

but had said that he could go right straight on to Whitneytown without missing it. He was puzzled which road to take, for there was

The train was scarcely more than fifty yards no guide-post, and the last house he had seen was

"Reckin dis am de right road," he muttered after looking in vain to see if any one were com

Ten minutes later he met a countryman coming He got into a bog by so doing, and nearly lost If he had done so, whis story, so far as he was along the road, and of him he inquired if he were one of his shoes, but he finally extricated himself, on the right road.

"Du yu wanter go tu Whitney's?" asked the Along in the afternoon he reached the town and be seen by a with the man and the weather provided the seen and a see a cold a cold a see a cold a see a cold a see a cold a cold a see a cold a see a cold a col

"Yas'r, dat am my 'tention."

"Wall, this yer rud 'll take yu thar arter a while, JEREMIAH's hired mule, finding himself on a but you'll hev to go 'beout four mile cout'n yer

rud down tew the corners. That 'ud ha' fe'ched ye tle coon?"

oder one now."

"Bress me ef I'se gwine to stay yer an' git killed "Yas, yew kin dew that or yew kin cut 'cross

"Go ober de flel's?"

rud," was the hayseeder's parting remark.

He was on the other side, however, and if the What had caused this final and very sudden ex-owner of the wall wanted it put up again he could replace it himself." Invalid the little of t

whirr, and was beginning to be lost in the dist-ing camp-meeting hymne and now and then mopping his head with a big red bandanna handkerchief.

Now it so happened that in his journey across lots that coon came to a field tenanted at that moment by a rip-snorting bull of the flercest kind.

He might not have objected to Jeremiah's presence, or even to his singing, but he did object to that big red handkerchief.

To this he entered a formal and most vigorous

protest. He put down his head, threw up his tail, uttered a terrific bellow and charged full tilt at the

The latter heard him coming, thrust his red wipe into his cont-tail pocket, and put for the nearest

fence. "Fo' Gawge, I don' wanter be frowed up in de a'r by dat bull fo' a cent," he remarked, as he hoofed it along in lively style.

He very quickly saw, however, that the mascuand the longer Jeremiah looked, the further away line bovine beast was likely to reach the fence long before he did.

Then a lucky thought struck him.

"Gorry! I fool dat yer bull yet, see ef I don'," he chuckled.

Then he suddenly stopped, turned around, faced that angry bull and grabbed his umbrella.

The bull let out another roar and came on at full Then Jeremiah John opened that big umbrella

"Reckin dat frighten him firs' class," muttered

the coon. There was enough left of the umbrella to spread, but the bull did not seem to mind it worth men-

He came straight on, broke through the enemy's lines, otherwise the umbrella, and sent things fly-

The next thing that Jeremiah knew, he was sitting on a rock on the other side of the fence, feel-

The bull was looking over the fence at him, and evidertly wishing he could take a second round out of his fallen foe.

"'Pears to me I'se bery much demoralized," observed Jeremiah, as he looked at the wrecked umbrella, his ruined clothes, and the bull on the other side of the fence.

"Dat fing wahn't ob no 'count 't all," he con-Later on, however, when it was cool and shady, tinued, gazing at the ruined umbrella. "What fo' folks put tings in books dat amn't so? Ef it wahn't fo' wha' I read in a book, I would 'n be cotched dis a way.

"One cb dem story books in the Sun'ay school libr'ry tol' all 'bout scarin' 'way lions an' b'ars an' At last he came to two roads, both leading in the Dat am all rubbish. 'Tain' so 't all, an' I know wil' bulls jes' by op'nin' a 'brella in deir faces. it! Dat yer bull pay no mo' 'tention to dat 'brella His guide had not told him about these roads. dan ef 'twahn't dere 't all. I calls de 'tention ob de chu'ch to dat, soon as I get back dar. Dem story books don' tell de trufe, dev tells stories, reckin' dat's why dey calls 'em dat, all de time."

Then he arose and continued his tramp, the bull uttering a triumphant beliew as his late enemy retreated.

In the next field, there was a harmless, necessary cow, grazing at her leisure, but Jeremiah had had Thereupon he turned down the right hand road, all the fun he wanted with the bovine race, and he gave that animal as wide a berth as possible.

and soon struck into the road.

where Sam was going to stop, and looked around for the hotel.

He found it, but there was no Sam Smart, no Peter Pocket, no Solomon, and no wason.

"Does yo' know whar Smaht and Comp'ny is gwine to stop in dis ver town?" he asked the clerk. "Smart & Co? They're the peddlers, ain't they?"

"Yas'r, dem's 'um." "Big wagon, four horses, two young fellows, lit-

"Yas'r, dat's de indentical team."

"They passed through here this morning, bound for the next town. They were going to stop but thought they wouldn't."

"Day gone to de nex' town?"

"Yes."

"How far am dat?"

"Oh, about ten miles, that is, where they're going

"Ten mile! Great glory!"

day.

He had spent five dollars on a mule to take him exhorted and they got chuck full of enthusiasm. | "Try 'em before you buy 'em, don't put your to this town, had lost the brute and had to walk We are afraid, however, that there was less of a money on what you don't know is good. Talk is

and now along came this cheerful bit of news.

"Dey can' shake me so easy as dat, an' I'se boun' coon tramps on their marrow bones in the dust, prised." ter cotch 'em fus' or las'!"

Then he went out and hunted up an eating ing as if he were wound up to run till morning. saloon, where for fifty cents he filled himself up to The meeting was going on very successfully, and the muzzle, feeling decidedly better than when he Jeremiah thought he might soon be able to ask for sat down.

A shave and a wash put him even in better tem- This was a regular wickedest man sort of coon. per, and then as the sun began to get on the de-a backslider and a scoffer, a fellow who had cline and the air was decidedly cooler, he con-tumbled from grace, and who would rather go fish-

cluded to resume his walk.

much-deserted road, singing to himself, when sud- whole lot. denly, in the moonlight, he discovered three figures approaching.

were darkies, but not at all the kind of coons that He came slouching up, saw what was going on,

he cared to associate with.

In short they were tramps, bold, bad, beery claimed: tramps, worse than any white specimens of that class he had ever seen.

singing and raising Cain generally.

They espied Jeremiah in a jiffy and noticed that Wall, it am 'journed." he was well dressed and probably had money in his pocket.

"Good ebenin' gem'en," said Jeremiah John, their sins, jumped to their feet, and broke up the trying to pass the three unsavory colored gentle-meeting. men.

"Don't be in a hurry, sah," said the head tramp, blocking his way. "I've got a wo'd ter say ter yo fo' yo' go on."

"Reckon dem close fit us better dan dey do he,

eh, 'Rastus?" observed another.

"Dem shoes am too big fo' him feet, but dey go on me fus' rate, Jeems," said the third.

"Jes' stan' still, sah, and shell out yo' money an' close," said 'Rastus, the raggedest coon of all.

Jeremiah realized that he was in a bad plight, but for all that he did not despair.

A sudden thought struck him, as such things usually did, and he determined to act upon it.

He would try the effect of moral sussion on these degenerate coons.

"Bredren, am yo' 'war' dat yo'm gwine stret ter perditium by continuerin' in yo' ebil paffs?" he asked, impressively. The darky tramps stared at him as if doubting all of the shabbiest kind, however.

the evidence of their senses.

"Bredren, de wraf ob de Lawd am an awful ting ter hab fall on yer. It am wuss dan a hodfull ob bricks, I tol' yo'. It am wuss dan a kick in de were shoes in name only. shins, a good sight, my bredren.

"Did'n' yo' neber stop to fink dat de way ob de transgressor am de hahdes' road dat yo' eber him for the dandy coon who used to blow the taking Jeremiah with them, that troublesome coon trabled, full o' sticks an' stuns an' stum'lin' blocks, bugle on top of the big wagon of Smart & Co. hey, bredren?

"Don' yo' know dat it am bettah to be good dan to foller de debbil? Wall, I jes' tol' yo' it war, had lost all his friends. ebery time, an' I kin prote it to you' sass'factium, Meanwhile, Sam Smart and his retinue had ar- Jeremiah John had been to no prayer-meetings, ef yo'll listen.

wiles' kin'-roarin' lions goin' bout to 'stroy de large and enthusiastic audience. chillen ob light. Dis yer 'easion am de bes' one "Now, then, ladies and gents, young men, old a great flourish of trumpets, and Sam, standing on dere is to tell yo' ob yo' sins. Bredren, de meet-men, babies, dudes and dogs, I have here the the seat, dressed in a dizzy checked suit, called out: Don' wait till de lebenf hour, fo' dat'll be too late, hold, the patent illuminated match safe. but jes' come dis yer minnit to de frone, an' 'fess "Just the thing for you, boys, when you come try, and the whitest one to boot, and what I say wha' mis'able wretches yo' is."

he was just full of such things.

sionable, and when Jeremiah began to exhort they find a match.

were quickly moved,

Look out fo' yo'se'f dat it don' scrush yo' all ter bell ring, and then go hunting all over the house, "Before every sale, which takes place this evenlilly bits when it cotch yo'. Keep ahead ob de in the sink, under the bed, in the wood box, any-ing, in the public square, we give a prize-package, wheel, don' hang behin' an let de debbil snatch where, for a match, and all the time the gas is es- all-star, sugar-coated variety entertainment, in yo', kase yo'm behin' de times. Git right up an' caping, and when you do light a match you think which will appear King Solomon, the funniest git, bredren, an' shake de nonsense out'n ol' the house is on fire. Satan L

ful hand on dem dat beliebe. Don' yo' get left find a match in the dark and saves broken bones. John Joseph Smithioni, the celebrated cornet virbredren, but jes' open yo' hahts an' get yo'se'f sour tempers and cross fits, never gives you away tuoso from the Paris conservatory-a long way chock full ob de glory. De adwersary needn' and is always handy. come foolin' round yer if yo'get yo'se'f full ob "Only five cents, and a box of snap-and-bang, "No resurrected witticisms, no antediluvian halleluyer!"

tramp coons very much excited.

They were all kneeling in the road, ringing their "Also our patent reversible ash receiver, can be will speak for itself. hands, sobbing and rocking their bodies to and used for a foot-stool, warming-pan, sofa cushion, "Everything from the four corners, top, bottom, tion.

Poor Jeremiah appeared to be in bad luck this Jeremiah sang and they all joined in, he prayed very best materials, and a written guarantee given and they put in the amens at every third word, he with each article.

half the distance, had been tossed by a bull, and desire, on Jeremiah's part, to save souls, than to cheap, but if you don't find this the best little artinow found that he still had ten miles more to go save his clothes and money, for he was thinking cle you ever saw I'll be very much surprised. before catching up with the wagon. all the time of how he was going to sneak away "It takes a good deal to surprise me in these He was tired, hungry, travel stained and cross, when he had gotten his congregation of three suf-days of improvement in the arts and sciences, and ficiently worked up.

with that big moke standing over them, and talk-

a collection, when a new-comer arrived.

ing any day than go to meeting.

He had accomplished some three quarters of the He was a tramp like the rest, but was blacker, distance, and was walking along a lonely very-dirtier, lazier, more ragged, and beerier than the

He was the one black sheep in the flock, the discordant element, the ringleader in mischief, a holy As they came nearer, he perceived that they terror, in fact, and a bad man from Wayback.

threw his battered hat on the ground, and ex-

"What yer doin' yer in the road, 'Rastus? Ain' yo' got no spect fo' yo'se'f, Jeems? John Henry, On they came in the moonlight, laughing and ef yo' don' git up outin de dust, I done wahm yo' liacket fo' yo'. What am all dis? A prar meetin'?

> The backslider had the floor, and he held it. 'Rastus, Jeems, and John Henry forgot all about

"'Pears ter me he am dress' bettah dan we wus, when a ragged, very much demoralized moke sud-Reckin he make him libin' outen prar meetins, denly came rushing up and cried out: while we un's starbe. Les' go froo um."

He already had Jeremiah by the collar, and the neber g'way again."

poor coon hadn't the ghost of a chance.

"Staht a prair meetin' in de road, did yer?" continued the wicked sinner. "Hab yo' got a call to preach? Reckin yo'm a fraud. Yo'm no good, back dis time I neber do nuffin' again." brudder. Rastus, Jeems, John Henry, come yer."

The three tramps obeyed and poor Jeremiah John Joseph was thrown down and stripped to

the skin by those robber mokes.

His checked suit, his money, his boots, his hat, and even his underclothes and socks were taken.

Then, that he might not be condemned to lead the life of a wild man of the woods, those nigs sup-till Sam was ready. plied him with trousers, coat, shirt, hat and shoes,

His hat was like a leaky roof, his coat was a sieve, his trousers were patched and darned till the original pattern was lost sight of, and his shoes

He was a wretched-looking object when they got through with him, and nobody would have taken

The tramps left him in the middle of the road

rived in town, and at this very moment our hero partly because Sam kept a good watch on him, and "Bredren, youse all sinnahs-sinnahs ob de was holding forth from the rear of his wagon, to a also for the reason that there were none to attend.

home late, want to find a match, fall over coal you can believe.

"Here you are, girls. Just what you want, too. fide and exactly as represented, money refunded "De wheel ob time am movin' on, brueders, You know you turn on the gas when you hear the in case the weather proves stormy.

"De glory ob de Lawd am a-comin' down pow'- flecting, self-illuminating match-box, helps you to of any age, mine is just twenty-one, and Jeremiah

giory, bredren, but if yo' don' he's boun' ter cotch kill-me-quick parlor matches thrown in. Buy one gags, no old jokes, but everything new and up to yo'shuah. Bressed be de Lawd, bredren! Glory of these safes and you'll never regret it. Shows the times, still damp from the press and innocent plainly in the darkest night, you can't miss it, a of finger marks, just the sort of show to please the By this time Jeremiah John had got those three tipsy man can't find it, and lots of suffering can be people and make them want to come again. The saved.

very low price of twenty five cents, made of the will be found for sale, and if we haven't got what

I'll sing you a little song about it, just to show you "Don' car' et it's fohty miles," he muttered. It was very funny to see those ragged, dirty how, no matter what happens, I wouldn't be sur-

Then Peter Pocket thumped his banjo and Sam

got rid of the following:

If I saw a one-legged man playing base ball, Or a leather-lunged baby who never would squall, See a red-headed girl and not see a white horse. Take chin from a dude as a matter of course. If they put base ball pitchers all up in leather, And tell ten days off the state of the weather, I wouldn't be surprised.

We may see the day when the women will vote, And opera singers never have a sore throat, When public officials don't stear all your cash, When you don't see, each day, some bank go to smash,

When doctors agree and the lawyers grow poor-If all this came about, not speaking of more, I wouldn't be surprised.

"If never an alderman collared the boodle, If the crowned heads of Europe all sang Yankee Doo-

It mothers-in-law ceased to trouble and worry. And Yankees stop bolting their grub in a hurry. If trains ran on time and nothing to pay, And every man make twenty dollars a day, I wouldn't be surprised."

The crowd laughed and yelled and called for more, but Sam went right on selling goods, and "Who am dis fellah, h'm?" asked the new comer. had started a lot of mouse-traps at a nickel apiece,

"Fo' de lawd's sake, boss, sabe me, an' I'll

The distressed looking moke was Jeremiah.

"Hallo. You back again?" said Sam. "Yas'r, an' Ise done beat out, but ef yo' took me

"I wouldn't be surprised," said Sam. "Den yo' won' let de sher'f took me up?"

"What's the sheriff going to take you up for?" "Fase he says I'se a tramp."

"Well, you look like one, but that's all right. Stay here till we shut up, and I'll take you along." That satisfied Jeremiah, and he sat on the wagon

"If you take him back," observed Peter, "you'll have just the same trouble as before, and have to bounce him again."

"I wouldn't be surprised," said Sam.

CHAPTER X.

On the following day Smart & Co. left town, having promised to behave himself in future.

Things went along as smooth as lard for a week and went on, poor Jeremiah feeling as though he or ten days, the young peddlers traveling from place to place and making lots of money.

Finally one day they drove into a big town with

in' am open, an' yo' is all free ter 'fess yo' sins, handiest little article ever introduced into a house- "Friends and fellow citizens, I am the great Sam Smart, the sauciest boy peddler in the whole coun-

That was a novel idea of Jeremiah's to start a scuttles, bump your heads against open doors "This isn't a second-class variety show, but a prayer meeting right in the middle of the road, but which somebody has kindly left for you to run bang-up, above-proof, non-combustible, gilt-edged, into, step on the poker, tumble over the cradle, and copper-bottomed, steel-riveted, fast-sailing, thor-The coous, like all darkies, were very impres-use sulphurous language, all in your endeavor to oughbred traveling emporium, and what you buy of me is warranted fast colors, no shrinkage, bona

moke alive, Moses, the canine wonder, Peter Pock-"Buy our new patent back action, double re-et, serio-comic, myself, the greatest topical singer from it, four thousand miles, in fact.

more you come the more you want to, and our sale

fro, uttering now and then some fervent ejacula-horse block, coal scuttle, or ash box, and all for the sides, interior, upper and under crust of the earth

you want we'll order it and have it sent to your "Yessir, comin' dis minnit," answered that off to meetings without leave," said Sam to Peter. address.

"Here you will find everything from a pair of socks to an ulster, from a toothpick to a coffin. Our coffins give universal satisfaction, people using them never want any other. Second hand ones a specialty, also repairing done in this line, satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

"Gold rings, jewelry, knives, forks, spades clubs, hearts or diamonds, trumps or odd suits. pokers, faros or other games, umbrellas, salt celed; come and judge for yourself. Excuse my talk-vigorous treatment. ing so fast, I bit my tongue this morning and it "Honest Injun?"

young chunk of ebony.

"Where's your father?"

"Spec he's somewhars round yer, sah."

"Well, he isn't."

"Am he froo his suppah, sah?"

"See here, you know where he is well enough," said Sam, taking that lively moke by the ear, and I want you to tell me."

"'Deed I don', Marse Sam, really-fo' truly I lars, wringers and Singer's, also Wheeler and Wil-don'; take my oaf I hain' got no idee whar he hands on. Jeremiah is honest, at all events." son's or any other kind, bought, sold and exchang-am," pleaded Solomon, squirming under Sam's Tobboall telela toefin

"He has his Sundays to himself, and that ought to be enough."w right mrolie; at beeting agin edd

"Going to break him of it, eh?" said Peter, with drive the wagen out into the square.

"Yes worth much neal w whith madwers saw it

"You'll have to break his neck first." "Well, then, I'll discharge him and get a nigger that don't go to meetings."

"Yes, and have him steal everything he can lay "Yes, but deucedly unreliable. If I keep him

I'm going to break him of that habit of his." "It's a great nuisance, I admit," said Peter.



That coon in his old dress and sunbonnet looked as funny as a pig on skates. All hands roared, and that made him as ashamed as could be. "Been to prayer-meeting again, have you?" asked Sam.

Jeremiah tooted his horn till his fat cheeks seem- wo'd an' honah I don', Marse Sam!" Can't we get somebody to waylay him as we did Jeremiah tooted his horn till his fat cheeks seem- wo'd an' honah I don', Marse Sam!"

ed ready to burst, and then Sam sang a song, Solo- "Well, why don't you watch him, then? You "Spend five dollars on sausages to feed to the Peter beat the drum and Moses barked himself he gets, and leaves us in a hole." hoarse.

After this Sam gathered up the ribbons and drove mon, while to the hotel, where the horses were put up, and all "It's got to be stopped, Solomon."

The hands amused themselves till dinner time. "Spec it hab, sah. Dat fader ob mine am bery were loafing around the hotel, described Jere-After this Sam gathered up the ribbons and drove mon, with a grin.

Country cooking hadn't yet killed Sam, by a shif'less." big majority, and he was fatter, saucier, hand- "Well, why in time don't you prevent his going "I want you to waylay that coon," he said, very best of side partners.

nuisance.

looking over and assorting a lot of new goods just hab sneaked away." arrived, practicing new funny business, teaching Sam laughed, thought a few moments and said: Moses new tricks, and otherwise employing theming?"

Jeremiah, and just after supper, in getting to which done tol' on him ef he do." meal both Sam and Peter were late, that irresponsible darky was found missing.

Sam came out from supper, went around to the I did, I done tol' vo'." barn, looked in at the kitchen, nosed around the Sam found out from some of the servants in the stables, but saw nothing of Jeremiah.

Other coon was in sight. "Solomon!" called Sam, sharply.

mon scattered the dodgers like autumn leaves, know he sneaks off to prayer-meeting every chance village dogs?" snorted Sam. "Not much. That

"It am a bery bad habit, Marse Sam," said Solo-

watch him?"

Moses, that comical trick dog, was as funny as "Lor' sakes, boss, I kean't keep my eyes on ever and better looking; and as for Solomon, he him ebery minnit. Fader, he come out an' he say, grew livelier every day, and proved as much a 'H'yar, yo' Solomon, hurry up an' get down dat treasure as his piously-inclined father proved a hahness, so's de waggin kin be hitched up.' Den I goes and gits de hahness, an' de nex' minnit, jes' give him any more than the law allows." Sam and Peter were pretty busy that afternoon, when my back am turned, dat no 'count niggah he

"You didn't hear him talk about going to meet- fo' de job?"

Consequently, Sam forgot to keep his eye on "No, sah, he know too much fo' dat_he know I

" Is this one of the regular nights?"

"Donno when dey hab um in dis town, sah.

hotel, however, that there was a meeting that night Solomon was getting out the harness, but no in a colored church about two miles away, and that

a load of coons had gone over just after supper. "We've got to break him of that habit of running

coon isn't worth it."

"I'll get the job done for less."

miah to them, and then unfolded his plans.

somer and jollier than ever, while Peter made the away, then?" cried Sam, angrily. "Why don't you "when he's coming from meeting. Take all his things off and send him home."

"Sen' him home in him skin, boss?" asked one of the coons, opening his eyes.

"Well, not so bad as that, perhaps; but don't "Wha' we do wif his close?"

"Send them here to the hotel to Sam Smart." "All right, boss; wha' yo' gwine to gub we uns

"I'll give you a quarter apiece."

"An' let us hab all de fun we wanter out'n dat nigger?"

"Yes, only don't hurt him."

"No, sah, we don' do dat, we on'y scar' de liber out'n um."

"That's it." "Yo' pay us now, boss?" asked the leader.

"No, sir!" said Peter, very decidedly. "You do

the job and then I'll pay you." "A' right, boss, we do um up brown." vance.

The nigs agreed to perform their work satisfactorily, and then Peter went off to help hitch up and blubbered. drive the wagen out into the square.

It was growing dark when Sam drove round, chucked a bundle at him. and he soon collected a crowd by his free show.

contortion act, Peter put his trick dog through his foolin' roun' our meetin' house no mo'." exercises, Sam sang, Solomon played the cornet, and Sam did a lot of juggling tricks and then sang fo'get it." again, by which time the crowd was in a pretty good humor and ready for anything.

"Peter, why am I like a porous plaster, an artist, and a good chimney?" asked Sam.

"Because you draw well," returned Peter.

"What do I draw, Peter?" "Crowds like this one."

"Solomon, what is the chief end of man?"

"De end wid de feet on, I specs. It's de bigges' in my case, I reckon."

"No, sir, it's the head, for that contains the un- to wear, however. derstanding."

"No, sah, yo'm dead wrong. De feet am de un- prised the entire contents of the bundle. dahstan'in' ebery time."

"What does more harm than a thunderbolt?"

"Two ob dem, I spec."

" How much is two and two?"

"Twenty-two. Any fool knows dat."

"That's how you came to guess it, I reckon." "Yas'r; dey feeds de pigs on ches'nuts whar I come f'om."

"That's what makes you so fat, I guess." "I'll give you one," said Peter.

"Very well, sir. What is it?"

"Why is a mushroom like a wheelbarrow?" "I'm sure I can see no points of resemblance be-

tween the 'wo articles." "Why, they're both very nice things to stumble net.

across. You never know whether they're going to hurt you till you find yourself down." "Now, then, brethren," said Sam, "I have here the cheapest article on the market, not too cheap, hardly the uniform for a consequential darky to one, stayed by de bedside ob dat po' dyin' man all

but just cheap enough, and that reminds me of a wear, but Jeremiah had nothing else. song: "Don't reckon your chickens before they are hatched,

When your horse is stolen, keep the door latched, Don't wait till you're old before going to school, Don't monkey around the hind legs of a mule, Don't take any stock in the talk of a fool, It's too cheap.

"Don't sign another man's name to a check, Don't knock a man down and walk on his neck Don't run up big bills and then go all to smash, Or chap little dogs' tails along with your hash, Don't spend any money on counterfeit cash, It's too cheap.

There's no trouble so bad but 'twill come to an end, So don't go on fretting your whole life away, But when the sun's shining, go in and make hay, And don't spend on rum all you make in a day. It's too cheap."

off one line of goods after another, so that by the ble. time the crowd began to go home he and Peter "Wouldn' hab de boss see me rigged up dis way lent juxtaposition with Jeremiah's rear, and rewere well satisfied with their night's work, and fo' nuffin'," he muttered, as he walked toward the peated the action thrice. adjourned to the hotel in the best of spirits, to have door. a quiet smoke before going to roost.

Jeremiah John had, meanwhile, been attending turn it softly, when somebody did it for him. meeting in the colored church and had started

homeward.

The road was rather lonely, and he beguiled the way by singing hymns in an unmelodious voice. Suddenly, when he least expected it, four darkies sprang out and grabbed him, holding him as in a two or three dudes, the clerk, the landlord, the bell-

"Wha' yo' want, ge men?" he asked, very much They were all smoking or engaged in conversa-

trightened.

"Dem good close yo' got on an' all yo' money." "Ge'men, am yo' war' ob de monstrosity ob dis perceedin'?" asked the scared coon. "Don' yo' footed, a big sunbonnet on his head, and an old know dat yo'm all sinnahs, dat de paff yo'm foller- calico dress covering his manly form. in' leads to de bottomiess pit? Oh, bredren, listen "Hallo, who owes their wash bill?" cried out the ter my ol' woman." to de voice ob ---"

us, Mistah Jeremiah, so yo'd bettah keep yo' mouf the gang stopped him.

shet." "Yas'r, dat don' go down wif us, so jes' shell all the rest of him!" sang out Sam. out."

Impromptu prayer-meeting, right here in the road, Peter. as he had once done with the three tramps, and so "Bress my gizzard, of it ain' fader!" ejaculated Every time you do it after this I'm going to serve escape.

This time, however, it wouldn't work.

"Jes' yo' lemme alone, nigger," he cried, as the ed as funny as a pig on skates. leader began to strip off his coat. "I done tell de All hands roared, and that made him as ashamed boss of you' don', yo' see."

wouldn' car' of he war."

stitch of clothing, leaving him without so much as coons jealous?" cried Peter. a paper collar or a pair of shoestrings.

Peter knew too much to pay those coons in ad- The air was tolerable cold, and poor Jeremiah "Where did you catch onto the Mother Hubbegan to shiver.

"Yas'r, we gib yo' dis," and the boss coon

"Ef yo' do, yo' get skinned, nigger, an' don' yo' Burnin' shame, dat's what it am."

gib yo'a lickin' de nex' time we cotch yo'." "Good-night, Brudder Smiff. Hope yo' won

cotch cold." Then those nigs left, and Jeremiah proceeded to'story. look into the bundle they had given him.

which he might return to the hotel.

It did contain old clothes, sure enough.

They were not the kind that he was accustomed

An old calico dress and a battered bonnet com-

can' w'ar dem t'ings nohow."

It was those or nothing, however. "De idee ob a membah ob de chu'ch gwine froo de streets in dem t'ings!"

It did seem hard, but there was no help for it. "All de deacons flah me out ef dey see me-woo-

ooh-rrr!"

ling like a man in a fit.

"Reckin I hab to put dese on or go wifout," he ter see me drefful bad." muttered, shaking with the cold.

forded him but little warmth, and put on the bon-in de place an' sen' fo' me in a tearia' hurry."

Jeremiah was himself, just then.

The wind blew around his bare legs, up and

down his back, and played over his manly bosom, much to his discomfort.

deff?" Then he wrapped the dress about him and started off toward the hotel on a dead run.

Now and then the dress would get away from blubber. him, flutter in the wind, and expose his nakedness to the cold, when he would gather it around him again and make a fresh start.

He couldn't keep warm even by running, and when he reached the hotel he was blue with the cold.

There was no way of getting to his room, except ever saw," cried Sam, sternly. by going through the office, and he knew that that For a brave, cheerful heart's the best kind of a friend, was full, by the sound of laughing and talking shades lighter. which came therefrom.

'bused nigger."

After this Sam got down to business and rattled mined to get through without being seen, if possi-git!"

The door flew open and Jeremiah went flying into every time. the office at lightning speed. Right into the middle of the room he went,

among a crowd of loungers. There were Sam Smart, Peter Pocket, Solomon,

boy, and a couple of old grangers.

to everything. There he stood in the middle of the floor, bare-gave them a quarter each all round.

clerk. "Here's the woman come to collect it."

"Just turned up from prayer-meeting with a him: Jeremiah had fancied that he could get up an change of raiment, if not a change of heart!" added

Solomon.

That coon in his old dress and sunbonnet look-

as could be. "De boss be blamed. He isn't yer, an' we "Been to prayer-meeting again, have you?" ask- when Jeremiah had gone away. ed Sam.

Then those coons deprived their victim of every "Been mashing another widow and got the

"Never can get enough, can you?"

"Ain' yo' gwine to leabe me nuffin 'tall?" hel "Ain' been ter meetin' 'tall," growled that shamefaced coon, chucking the shaker to the floor.

"Haven't, eh?"

"No, sah; been waylaid by fo'teen tramps, reg lar "Jes' yo' go back to Sam Smaht, an' tell him all highway robbahs, took all my close, all my money, Solomon danced, played the banjo, and did his bout it," said another, "an' don' yo' dar' ter come everyfing, an' lef' me dese of tings. Nice way fo' a membah ob de chu'ch to come home, ain' it?

"You were waylaid by highwaymen, were you?" "Gib our 'specs to Mistah Smaht, an' tell him wel "Yas'r, fo'teen ob 'em, an' all wif pistols an' knibes an' clubs. Dey jes' took eberyfing I had."

"Are you sure there were fourteen of the rascals?" asked Sam, as if he believed the whole

"Yas'r, dey was fo'teen ob 'em, kase I counted, He supposed it to contain some old clothes, with an' dey all had blunderbusters and bowie knibes. an' razors an' clubs, an' dey took ebery bressed cent I had."

"Where was this?"

"Jes' outside ob town."

"H'm. How came you to go away in the first place? Didn't I tell you not to go to prayer-meet-"De Lawd sabe us!" ejaculated Jeremiah; "I lings on week-day nights?"

"Ain' been to pra'r-meetin', boss, sw'ar to good-

ness I ain'." " No?"

"No, sah, ain' been wifin two mile ob a chu'ch dis ebenin'."

"Where were you, then?" "Wall, yo' see, boss, I heard, early dis ebenin', The cold began to strike in, and he was shiver-dat my secon' cousin on my mudder's side was libin' in dis town, an' dat he war dyin' an' wanted

"Oh, you did?" Then he got into the thin calico dress, which af- "Yas'r, he war awful sick, an' he heard dat I war

"Then you didn't go to prayer-meeting?" asked The latter article was of the Shaker variety, as Sam again, enjoying the fun of hearing that pious coon lie like the Old Scratch.

An old calico dress and a big sunbonnet is "No, sah, didn' go near um, didn' know dey was de ebenin'."

"Did he die?"

"Oh, yas, he die, an' lef' me his bressin' an' fo'ty dollahs, an' den when I was comin' home dem rob-"Woo-ooo-ooh! ain' it col'. Spec' I cotch my bahs sat on me an' took ebery bressed cent I hab an' all my close, too." "So he's dead, eh?"

"Yas'r, dead, po' man," and Jeremiah began to

"And you didn't go to prayer-meeting?" "No, sah, hadn't time to go to meetin'."

"And the man is dead?"

"Yas'r. I done tol' you dat a couple o' times." "Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham Isaac Moses Glory Hallelujah Smith, you're the biggest liar I

"Wha' dat, boss?" cried Jeremiah, turning three

"You're an infernal liar, you have been to pray-"Spec' de boss am dere, wif de res' ob dem er-meeting. You haven't any second cousin in this loafahs," he mused. "Oh, deah, I'se a dreffully town, he isn't dead, and the four fellows who took away your clothes were hired by Peter to de However, there was no help for it, and he deter-the job to punish you for running away. New

With that Sam brought the toe of his boot in vio-

At every kick the poor moke jumped, for, be it He had his hand on the knob, and was about to remembered, he had nothing on him except a very thin calico dress, and Sam toed the mark, literally.

> "Git!" said Sam, "Dust!" remarked Peter.

Both commands were enforced by more kicks. Jeremiah got.

He had not been gone many moments, when in came the four coons, with Jeremiah's clothes. "Dere yo'am, boss. Reckin' we made a putty

tion, but Jeremiah's sudden appearance put a stop good job ob it, h'm?" said the leader. "First-rate, and here's your money," and Peter

"Yo' would'n' min' lettin' me hab de dress an' de bonnet in de mornin', would yo', boss? It b'long

"Come and get 'em," laughed Peter, and then "Yo' kean't come no pra'r meetin' bizness on Jeremiah tried to get out by the other door, but the mokes departed and all hands had another laugh over the affair.

"Blessed if it isn't Jeremiah John Joseph and In the morning Jeremiah came down looking as independent as a turkey cock, and Sam said to

> "Jeremiah John, I played a trick on you last night, to break you of going away without leave. you the same way, so look out for yourself."

"Yas'r," said Jeremiah, coming down several

"See that you do, then," said Sam.

"Do you think you've cured nim?" asked Peter, "I hope so."

"I'll be willing to bet you haven't,"

"Well, we'll see," said Sam. And they did see.

CHAPTER XI.

For some little time after Sam's hint to Jere-him. He isn't worth it." miah, that pious coon behaved himself first rate,

and attended strictly to business.

It was too late for the camp-meeting season, but there were revivals and protracted meetings and tove feasts and celebrations of all sorts to be looked out for, so that there was no knowing when Jeremiah might break the rules again and sneak Sam had struck up an acquaintance with them. off of a night.

Sure enough, it was not long before the piously-inclined coon slipped away one cool evening, evading the vigilance of Sam, Peter and Solomon, and

went to a prayer-meeting.

Sam was as mad as a plumber in summer, for he see that they were doing a good business.

anything."

"All right."

There happened to be stopping at the same hotel, three or four drummers for different houses, and

He did not interfere with their business in the "Now, then, fellow tax-payers," called out Same

fellows, had enjoyed the show and were glad to this cheap little article-Sam Smart's patent illu-

"I'm not going to spend any more money on and then Sam drove out into the square, and started in on a rattling good business.

"I'll git up a cheap snap and one that won't cost First all hands gave an overture. Sam playing the cornet, Solomon the cymbals and Peter the big drum, the dog Moses putting in a bark now and then by way of accompainment.

Then Sam played the banjo, while Peter sang. and after that Peter and Moses amused the

crowd.

town, for he bought a good bill of goods of each, in a loud voice, "get your small change ready, for you will need it. Don't think I intend to take up The drummers thought Sam and Peter first rate a co lection, for I don't. I only want you to buy minated metal numbers-to stick on your doors.



Suddenly, right in the midst of the coon's song, there arose from behind six grave-stones six sheeted specters, all pointing their fingers toward Jeremiah. "Fo' de lan' ob glory! Look at dem ghosteses!" muttered Jeremiah. "Fo' Heaben's sake, wha' I done ter see dem?"

had prided himself on being able to keep a good It was just before the sale when Sam and Peter "These enable you to see where you live on the watch on that coon.

small coon was mad to think he had not been able of drugs.

to earn it. Peter was mad because, when Jeremiah was not ing of you. Will you join us in a little racket?"

acts to keep the crowd amused.

"This sort of thing has got to be stopped," said Sam, when they found that Jeremiah John was not That broke poor Jerein de Loier al

to be found. marked Peter with a chuckle.

"We must break him of this habit of running off whenever Le chooses, if we break his neck." "Likewise have you made that remark also," Sam. at night, or fellows looking for their girl's houses.

observed Peter. "Something must be done to cure him of this

habit."

"Discharge him." Mer and to and head well "Yes; and have him come back the next day."

" Discharge him again."

"He'll follow us."

"Discharge him again." "Oh, he's like a gun, every discharge makes him

worse." "Then fire him." al sevo beleget and all

"That's the same, isn't it?" "Kiek him out then."

"I've kicked till I'm tired."

"Well, suppose we work off a snap on him?"

had their little confab.

He had promised Solomon a dollar every time he Just then in came Jack Jolly, a drummer for a lemonade you've been taking, no mistakes made, prevented his father from going away, and the notions house, and Ben Blunt, who carried a line no trying to get into the wrong house when you

"Hallo, boys," said Peter. "I was just think- "Any combination of figures furnished, all sup-

racket," said Ben. "Well, I should gurgle." "You've seen our big coon, haven't you?"

"Yes, and think him very funny." bothers us," Minop bus black Joings and well

"Can't you stop him?"

then all hands of us can waylay him, and scare age, indorsed by press, clergy and public.

road, in going to it."

Peter. "Sheets are cheap." "Just the thing," answered Sam. "We musn't "Three figures, assorted, and a corkscrew, bot-

"Good enough."

darkest night, and no matter how many glasses of use this article.

plied with steel rivets, can be fastened on any around, he had to toot on the bugle and do extra "The idea of asking a drummer to go on a little door, ten cents a figure, three for a quarter, and any combination supplied; can be seen in the darkest night, shines like a coon's heel, and never floses its luster.

"So do we, when he sticks to business, but just "If you live at No. 123 any street, I furnish you "I think I've heard you say that before," re- now he's run away to prayer-meeting, and that with the three figures, with full directions for putting on, and there you are-you always know where you live, and can't make any mistakes. In-"If you can, I'll give you ten dollars," said valuable for doctors, young men going home late

"Do you know where he's gone?" "Here you are, our patent illuminated house "Out of town a way. I guess." numbers, ten cents a figure or three for a quarter, "Well, get your sale through with early, and as cheap as dirt, and the finest invention of the

the life out of him." "Here you have the handiest thing ever known "I know where the nigger church is," said Jack, and all for a song; the song is generally 'We "You have to pass a grave-yard, right close to the Won't Go Home Till Morning," or 'Johnny Fill Up the Bowl,' or occasionally, 'Put His Little Socks "We'll work the ghost racket on him," said Away, or sometimes, 'Father Come Home,' but it's a song all the same.

have any old played out ghost snap, though. I'll the of soda water or bar of soap thrown in. Can't give you some new ideas in that line." I induce any one to buy? No? Then this must be a very nice crowd, all hands go to bed early and

The other two drummers were let into the snap, never forget where they live.

"Well, how's this, then? Here you have my my tack yo' in de r'ar an' lug yo' off to de lan' ob own weary road, his song being carried far away patent corn salve and bunion eradicator. Old 'tarnal mis'ry. Brudders, le's pray." on the wings of the wind. Bunyan used it himself when he wrote his Pil- Jeremiah John was right in his element, like a Pretty soon he came to the grave-yard, and just grim's Progress. Ten cents a bottle and a pair of fish in a brook, and the longer the meeting lasted then the moon came out bright and full. suspenders thrown in. Why are two men hanging the better he liked it. like a useful article of clothing? Because they are There was lots of enthusiasm, plenty of singing, see that when I come 'long, fus' off. Well, dead a pair of suspenders. Next! Who'll have a bottle? shouting and praying and giving of experiences, folks kean't hurt nobody, nohow." Thank you, sir; you can have it for nothing. and hour after hour sneaked away without any

merit. Who'll take the next? You, sir? Thank One by one, two by two and in groups the coons you, sir. Peter, give him a neck-tie to go with his faded away, till at last eleven o'clock had long just where it came nearest to the road.

gents. It knocks spots out of the toughest corns. hymn, bred'ren," said the leader at length. "De Acknowledge the corn, now, and buy a bottle houah am gettin' late, an' I'se got ter be up arly in there arose from behind six grave-stones six sheet-Thank you, sir. Peter, fetch out a Waterbury de mo'nin' ter do a job ob whitewashin'." watch. All gone? Well, an alarm clock will do as "It am neber too late ter praise de Lawd," said miah. well. We're giving things away to-night.

"There was a young lady named Topping, Who always admired going shopping, She was great on the mash, But when you called 'Cash!' She'd go out of the store a-hopping.

"That's the kind of crowd I've got. Come, neighbors, step up and buy something, if it's only Jeremiah began to feel lonesome. a spool of thread. I've got to make my board bill, before I shut up to-night, so plank down, for I he stood on the steps and saw one after another can't be a shutter till I raise my board, wood you? going off in the opposite direction. I opine knot. Peter, fetch out your grand piano and give us an air or two. That 'ere will do, I more went away. guess."

Then Peter fetched out his banjo, sat down on a wench. three-legged stool, rattled away for a few minutes, and then burst forth into melody, as follows:

"Oh, once I loved a lovely gal, I met her in the lane: Her heart was true, her eyes were blue, Her name was Susan Jane.

She said I was a nice young man, and hoped I'd got the rocks.

But the very next day she vanished away. And I had to pawn my socks.

" She stole my heart, likewise my cash, This naughty Susan Jane. I sent her a letter, it didn't get her,

She'd faded from the lane. So, boys, beware of all the girls, or flirting in the

I've been caught once, I won't be a dunce, For I won't be sold again."

Sam got at the gang again and succeeded in wax-the least. ing some cash out of the spectators' pockets.

The sale closed early, however, and then, when to shake it off. the lights were put out and the wagon and nags "Reckon dey ain' nuthin' ter be skeered ob put up, Sam and his friends started off to play when de Lawd am on yo' side, but I wouldn' min' their little racket on Jeremiah, who had not yet if I had some feller ter talk to, arter all. Kean't returned.

with a big party of mokes in a wagon, and was Dat moon ain' no use 'tall. Wish she'd eider stay thinking of having the biggest kind of a picnic. | in or stay out. Dis yer bobbin' back an' fo'f ain' were worth:

He prayed, he shouted, he yelled camp-meeting no good. It's neider daylight nor da'k.

was the biggest toad in the puddle.

up in his seat, "whar am yo' gwine when yo' leab nahs prayin'. Dat's de kin' I like. dis earfly spere? Am yo' gwine stret up to glory "Don' car' ef de boss don' like my goin' ter meetto cuddle in de buzzum ob de Lawd, or am yo'in'. Reckon he ain't got no call ter interfeah wif gwine down ter 'tarnal misry an' stir up de flahs my 'ligious duties, nohow. I'll go ter meetin' jes' fo' ole Satan?

"Reflec', brudders an' sistahs, reflec' an' make up yo' min's whar yo'm gwine to, afo' de fron' do' ob heaben am shet an' yo' hab to sneak into del back do' ob perditium, neber to git out again.

"Young man, don' yo' git ter stayin' out too late nights, playin' policy an' fillin' up on gin an' lasses, or de adwersary'll come mopin' 'long an'

run yo' in jes' like a pleeceman.

"Young woman, don' yo' go to pahties an' weah ribbins an' eat chewin' gum, an' mash all de young coons an' dance all yo' preshus time away, less de ole debil come 'long some time an' dance yo' off to de lan' ob flah an' brimstun, whar de woice ob wallin' am heerd.

"Faders, look out fo' yo' chillun, an' don' fo'git ring out on the night air! ter look arter yo'se'f at de same time, or de do' ob headen wull be done shet an' yo'll be lef' out in de and he already felt as brave as an old hero of ro-

col' ready fo' de debbil to scoop yo' in.

"Mudders, don' yo' spen' too much time gaddin' roun', an' neglectin' ob yo' duties, rehashin' de lates' scandial or bitin' de backs ob yo' neighbahs. lest de ol' sarpint come sneakin' 'long an' wrop yo' in him deadly grip.

"Jine de glor'ous army, marchin' ter heaben, eben ef yo' don' do nuffin' but tote de watah bucket or car'y de targets. Am yo' a sojer ob de Lawd, brudder? No? Den jine right away, or ol' Clubfoot come along an' draf' yo' in him army afo' yo' know it.

"Put on de knapsack ob faif, shouldah de musket ob b'leef, buckle on de sword ob 'ligion, jine de ranks an' march up to de golden gate afo' de ene-

"I always give my first customer a reward of notice being taken of their absence.

suspenders. When a man is hanged he always has struck, the lamps were burning low, and only a a neck tie. Who's next? dozen or so of the faithful remained.

"You can't do better than to buy this corn cure, "Le's conclude dis meetin' wif de sebenty-fo'fe was a ditch on the other side.

Jeremiah. willin' to hab a wacation 'easion'ly, an' when de done ter see dem?" lights am gwine out an' de chu'ch am gettin' col', I reckon de Lawd don' min' ef we shet up shop."

Jeremiah looked around for his friends.

There was no wagon, no familiar faces, and

"Anybody gwine up to town?" he remarked, as

"Does yo' all lib roun' yer?" he asked again, as gether:

"Whar's yo' gwine, brudder?" asked one big

"Back to de hotel whar my boss am."

"Lor' bress yo', we uns don' lib dat a way. De waggin done went dar long ago."

"Don' nobody lib up my way?" asked Jeremiah, lugubriously.

"No, they all live in the other direction."

At last they had all departed, the church was shut up, and Jeremiah was left alone.

There was nothing for it but to walk back to the hotel, a good two miles, and by a lonesome road. "Pears ter me if dem fellers had a wanted ter more: show a Christine sperrit, dey'd a tol' me dey was gwine," muttered Jeremiah, as he started to hoof

The night was cold and cloudy, the moon now shaking as if he had a fit. and then shining around the edge of a cloud, and then sneaking back again.

The wind whistled through the leafless trees, for him.

and the air was anything but balmy.

flaps, and Peter did a juggling act, by which time ing hour of midnight was not very cheerful, to say ever.

Jeremiah felt its depressing influence, and tried by the head spook:

do all de talkin' nohow.

That coon had gone over to the prayer meeting "Gorry! how de win' do blow froo de limbs!

songs, he exhorted, he told his experience, and "Dat yer war one ob de bes' pra'r meetin's I eber 'tended. De sperrit ob de Lawd jes' hung 'round "Frens and feller sinnahs," he cried, jumping in chunks, an' it war edifyin' ter heah dem ol' sin-

when I choose, so dar.

"Oh, bredren, tell me whar yo's gwine, Trablin' dis weary road. Am yo' gwine to hearen fo' ter shine, Trablin' dis weary road? Am de gospul shoes upon yo' feet, Trablin' dis weary road? Am yo' gwine fo' ter walk de golden street, Trablin' dis weary road?

"Den jine de percession up to heaben, De glorus percession to de gates ob heaben, Come dis way ef yo' wanter get ter heaben, Trablin' dis weary road, aha!"

How the quaint music and quainter words did

Singing always put lots of spunk into that coon, mance.

"Don' yo' put it off too long, afo' yo' die, Trablin' dis weary road;

But hab a fingah in de gospul pie, Trablin' dis weary road. Tell de brudders an' de sistahs to' to jes' come

along. Trablin' dis weary road; An' we'll shout, an' we'll holler de gospul song,

Trablin' dis weary road. "Den, chillen, come along, I'se gwine ter heaben,

Dis am de way dat leads to heaben, Ef yo' wanter he sabed, yo' must get ter heaben, Trablin' dis weary road."

Then Jeremiah tramped steadily along on his ditch.

"Lor' sakes! dere am a buryin' groun'. Didn'-

"Oh, bredren, hahness up de ol! blin! mule, Trablin' dis weary " and later of the later

Jeremiah was right abreast of the grave-yard,

There was only a low wall between it and the road, and anybody could jump it, though there

Suddenly, right in the midst of the coon's song, ed specters, all pointing their fingers toward Jere-

"Fo' de lan' ob glory! Look at dem ghosteses!" "No, sah, I know dat, but I reckon de Lawd am muttered Jeremiah. "Fo' Heaben's sake, wha' I

Suddenly the boss ghost-who was none other than Sam Smart-began to chant in a sepulchral The meeting was then brought to an end, and voice, and in slow, drawling tones, the following:

" Mary-had-a-little-pup, Ali-covered-o'er-with-fleas, She-put-him-in a-tub, And-there-she-made-him-sneezel Chorus-brothers-chorus!"

Then all the other ghosts sneezed and said to-

"'Rah-'rah-'rah-rah-rah, rats!"

sentence:

Poor Jeremiah was terrified most to pieces, and his knees rattled a tune one against another. Then the boss specter got off another dreadful

> "Mother-may-I-go-in-to-swim? If-I-put-on-my-Sunday-pants? If-you-do-I'll-take-a-hickory-limb, And-wallop-you-till-you-dance. Now-brothers-for-the-chorus,"

Then all the ghosts let themselves loose once

"Aina-maina-mona-mike, chestnuts!"

Jeremiah's arms, legs, head and everything were

Those awful words, that horrible visitation, the dread mystery of the whole business were too much

Then the moon suddenly dodged behind a black Then Sam sang something, Solomon turned flip- A walk over a lonesome road close to the bewitch-cloud, and the ghosts became more ghost-like than

Once more that awe-inspiring chant arose, led

"Old-Mother-Hubbard-went-to-the-cupboard To-get-her-poor-dog-a-bone, But-when - sne -got - there-she-lost-all-her -

hair, And-that's-where-the-laugh-comes-in. Sing, brothers, sing!"

Thereupon the specters let her went for all they

"Ssst!-boom!-ah! Collar buttons!"

That bewildered coon couldn't make out any sense at all to the terrible words he heard, and that scared him worse than ever.

He flopped down on his knees, he clasped his hands, and his wool stood right up straight. "Please, deah ghos', don' hurt me!" he wailed,

while all the ghosts pointed their long, white arms at him. "Where-are-going-my-pretty-maid"

I'm-going-a-milking-rir-she-sayed, Can-I-go-with-you-"

"Toot-toot! ssh-sh! Steamboats!" interrupted the spirits.

"Jack-and-Jill-went-up-the-hill, To-fetch-a pail-of-water. Jack-fell-down-and-broke-"

"'Rah-'rah, 'rah-'rah, 'rah-'rah, ssh!" howled all the ghosts once more.

That broke poor Jeremiah John all up. He jumped to his feet, gave one howl, and started to run, missed his way and fell heels over head, slap into the ditch.

"That's enough for once," said Sam, as he pulled off his sheet, threw it over his arm, and dusted.

Peter did likewise, and then the four drummers traveled the same road.

They had lots of fun talking the snap over as they went back to the hotel.

They didn't give a second thought to the unfortunate Jeremiah, who, they supposed, would soon be along.

Jeremiah was pretty well shaken up, however, by the fright. He had toppled over in a dead faint, being

scared out of his seventeen senses by the ghosts. While Sam, Peter and the drummers were going

home laughing and chatting, he still lay in the

ance.

worst disintegrated coon you ever saw.

His face was the color of ashes, his eyes were hollow and sunken, his lips looked like underdone beefsteaks, his hair had lost its kink, his clothes were dirty and wet, and his whole get-up was most woe-begone.

He came sauntering along just as Sam walked quence. out upon the hotel veranda before breakfast.

The poor moke had laid in that ditch all night. Even Sam was surprised at his wretched appear- and ready to hit another one.

He did not show up till morning, and was the wouldn' stay in dis yer place anoder night fo' house an' lot in de fash'n'blest part ob it."

CHAPTER XII.

EVERYTHING was lovely with Smart & Co., and Sum arose and shouted out: the goose hung proportionately high in conse-

The firm would strike a town like a cyclone, take everything by storm and go away with lots of rocks

It was late when Sam went to bed, but it was now go in, wash up and get your breakfast. We its declaration of independence, and was still gov-later still when Jeremiah John put in an appear-leave this town by ten o'clock." "T'ank goodness fo' dat !" mused Jeremiah. "I of thing, and no mayor to boss it, nor any board of a boodle aldermen to run away with its cash.

> Drawing rein in front of the biggest hotel, Sam signaled to Jeremiah to blow a blast on his bugle. Then when attention had been secured and Sole-

mon was scattering the dodgers right and left,

"Here we are, ladies and gents, the only and original Sam Smart from Smartville, the dandiest Yankee peddler in the business, with his team of elegant horses, his beautiful traveling chariot, his Occasionally a big town, almost a city, in fact, excellent company of comedians, and the finest



He stood there like a very gorgeous waz figure, his eyes closed and his tongue sticking away out and extending an invitation to all the flies in the neighborhood. "Hm! very nice case," muttered the doctor, preparing to steal away, "very nice, indeed. Don't move now, or open your eyes, till I tell you. Put out your tongue a little further, please."

matter with you?" he asked.

"May's well tol' yo' de trufe, boss," said Jere-net.

miah, humbly.

"Well, what is it?" "Well, boss, I wen' to pra'r meetin' ag'in las' maybe a little extra activity did him good. funded if satisfaction isn't given. No reserved night, wifout axin' leave, an' when I come home I Jeremiah was keeping pretty straight these days, seats, first come, first looked after, and no postseed a ghos'."

With mock seriousness.

Shostses wif him, and dey all said de mos' drefful ing and stopped. tings. Clar to goodness, boss, I jes' fainted clean Sam kept introducing new features into the "You can buy anything from a penny whistle to dead away and fell in de ditch, an' dar I lay till show, and always had novelties ready for the big a team of horses, you blow your breath in the mo'nin'."

"'Deed I won', boss, never, ef yo'll oberlook dis till the bad weather obliged him to do so.

ume," said the coon. "All right. See that you don't," said Sam; "and quite a city, in fact, although it had not yet made and staring.

"For Heaven's sake, Jeremiah John, what's the would come in their way, but Sam would hit one and cheapest lot of goods ever thrown upon the atter with you?" he asked.

as hard as another, for everything was fish in his market.

than usual, but he got there just the same, and as everything we do is on the square. Money re-

and had not been to a single meeting, even on Sun-ponement on account of the weather. "Oh, Jeremiah, now you're fibbing!" said Sam, day, without first asking Sam's permission. "We sell everything except our customers, and

"No, I isn't, boss-'deed I isn't!" protested the many snaps that were played on him whenever he lar's worth of our goods is worth two dollars spent coon. "I seed a ghos' rise right up out'n de went away without leave, knowing, also, that they on the cheap trash you get elsewhere, but come grabe-vard, an' dey was a whole fambly ob oder would continue, and he therefore took Sam's warn- and satisfy yourselves and don't take my word for

towns, where the people would be apt to have whistle, or blow your money into the horses, I'm

"No, sah. Hope ter die ef I ain' tellin' de solyum old dog, and could therefore learn them; Solomon but you won't find any sand flies on us. trufe. Dey was six or seben ghostses, an' dey all picked up a performing cat, and exhibited him to "Sealskin sacks going as cheap as calico wrapriz right up out ob de groun' an' p'int deir fingaha delighted audiences; there was a comical little pers, grand pianos thrown away, sewing machines at me an' said awful t'ings, an' I jes' clean wilted- mule which Sam himself showed off, and Jeremiah sold for a song, diamond ear-rings cheaper than I did, an' so help me lan' ob glory, boss, I won' learned lots of new tunes to play on his bugle, so ever before, and as for notions, I've an ocean of heber go to anoder pra'r meetin' ag'in wifout leabe that altogether the show was first-class, and sure 'em, and I've put 'em in motion, and make a

the weather was still pleasant, with no snow, and and judge for yourselves." "Maybe he will keep his word," thought Sam, only now and then a cold day, and so Sam con- Then Sam took up the ribbons, and with crack-"for he was too scared to lie this time." ciuded to keep right on and not return to the city ing of whips, tooting of horns, beating of drums

One day he entered a big, over-grown town-rattled away, and left the populace open-mouthed

"Come and see the funniest show on the globe, The big places made him hustle a little more and all for nothing, at eight o'clock, in the square,

In fact, that pious darky was getting tired of the at foundation prices to suit the times. One dol-

"You ain't lying to me, Jeremiah?" said Sam, heard the old gags.

Moses was taught new tricks, for he was not an the bills, if you're any fist at making the dust fly;

There was no doubting his earnestness this It was getting along into the early winter, but you a lotion that'll—stuck! Well, come and buy

and fluttering of dodgers, the whole equipage

on!"

they must be painted."

does so, b'gosh !"

man.

sure of them he drove all around town that after-tent articles as fast as he could hand them out, noon, scattering handbills broadcast, tooting on and keeping the crowd in continual good nature. the bugle and making speeches wherever he could The money fairly poured in, but Sam gave the gather a crowd.

everything ready, Sam jumped on the platform bugle, and so kept the ball rolling. and shouted out with all the voice he had:

folks, you can sit on the curbstone. Excuse these small wares, and had to fall back on big things. all the same.

will be a song written, composed, devised, in- "We hit 'em hard to-night, Petey," said Sam. vented, patented, contrived and sung exclusively when he and his chum and partner were having coming to me first?" by myself, all rights reserved, copyright fully pro-their good-night smoke. tected, all infringements duly punished to the full- "Yes, sir. Guess we can buy our seal-ulsters do let up on de machine," whined that suffering est extent of the law. The full band will now let pretty soon." itself loose while I warble."

Peter, Solomon and Jeremiah now let them-remains salubrious." selves loose, and Sam sang, in a voice that drowned all other sounds, his very newest, latest and comes and the roads are blocked?" best ballad:

"When I see a man doing all that he can To grind down his friend or his neighbor, Who drives of the poor that comes to his door,

And pays little or nothing for labor; To the widows and orphans his heart never softens, And he hates all that's jolly and free.

I don't think it's right, I'm in for a fight, For that isn't the style for me.

"The rich men may grumble, and ne'er take tumble That they do not own the whole earth,

Other nations may vex us and wish to annex us, And timnk we're of very small worth; The Canadians may wish to steal all our fish,

Or the Germans stir up a big spree, But I'd knock King Billy and all the rest silly, For that isn't the style for me."

The crowd got right onto this, and howled for

more, but Sam cried out:

"No, no, fellers, give Petey a chance; he's got a new act with that trick dog of his, the thoroughbred sooner, Moses, and Solomon is eating persimmons so as to pucker up his mouth to the proper dimensions for his whistling solo, so we'll give some other fellow a chance.

> "There was an old lady from France, Who was always dying to dance, But the young fellows shook her, And the old beaus never took her, And she never could get the first chance.

"That'll be the case with my partner, kind a quarter for you." friends, so I'm going to switch off and let him show what he can do. It isn't much, but he does po' boy." it first rate, you can bet your life!",

Then the show went on, and by the time the crowd had swelled to good proportions and was in a purchasing humor, Sam was ready for them.

"Here we are now, holiday presents for old and when he got outside: young. Here's a music box that plays one tune, ing to step on the cat's tail, or chuck the baby didn' fink ob it befo'." down-stairs.

"Twenty-five cents couldn't be better invested, ticularly happy, and said: Thank you, ma'am. One of the big ones? Yes, ma'am. Much obliged. Who's the next? Thank you, sir. May you live long and be happy. Here need your help." you go, selling em off like hot-cakes on a frosty morning. Thank you, sir. Same to you, ma'am. machine?" That's right, don't be afraid to huy 'em. I've only "Well, yes. Something like that. Just take hold "I'se hery sick, boss, deed I is," moaned Jerea few left, but I can sell you other things. Never of those handles, and hold on till I tell you to miah. "Feels all broke up, sure 'nuff." object to selling things, that's what I'm here for.

"Here you have our patent alarm clock and music-box combined-rings an alarm and plays a tune. If you've got to get up and catch an early train it plays 'Five O'clock in the Morning,' and he cotch hol' ob a po' sinnah." if there are burglars in the house it starts off on "That's the talk." 'Johnny, Get Your Gun,' suiting its tunes to the Teremiah John Joseph grabbed hold of the "Run back and ask the drug store man," said occasions. Half a dollar is all I ask for this handles, and Sam began to turn the crank for all Sam. "He'll tell you where you can find a dochousehold treasure, only a few more left, grab 'em he was worth. quick.

"Here is our patent shaving-mug, soap-dish, drop the handles. water-cooler, cusp dore and washbowl combined. Sam turned all the faster, and poor Jere John His gorgeous appearance caught the attention of Can be used for any and all these things, never Joe thought he had fallen into a stack of pins and the crowd, and they gazed at him in wonder. gets out of order, can't rust, won't break, don't needles. gather moths, and is always ready. Once you use "Hi dar. Whoa, hol' on, boss," he cried, danc- "No; that's one of the Europe'ean Minstrels 'em you'll never leave off. A box of tooth-powdering and hopping about. "Let go de machine | what shows in the Opera House ter-night." given with every one, and a map of Ireland thrown Suffin's 'tickin' inter me! Glory fo' goodness! "Is that real gold on his coat, or only imitation?"

Stop de machine! Oh, Lawd!"

tion?" Stop de machine! Oh, Lawd!"

"Guess that feller's tongue goes by steam, the "Next you have our anti-bilious, non-corro- Poor Jeremiah couldn't let go the handles to save way he talks." sive, useful-in-all-climates, never-wear-out light- his neck, and he got awfully scared. "Gosh! he's a rattler from Rattletown, I reck- ning shoe paste, puts a polish on anything, even His wool stood up straight, his eyes bulged out, the manners of a member of congress or the tem- his teeth chattered, and he danced like a barefooted "Did ye ever see such black niggers? Guess per of a boarding-house keeper, sold for ten cents boy on a hot pavement. a box and a brush thrown in, sold for less than The electric current ran all through him, and he "Beats all the trav'lin' peddlers I ever see, it halt cost, but the holidays are coming and I can thought all the coons in town were after him with afford to be generous. Peter, hand me up a gross razors. "I swun! if that feller don't take a lot o' money of 'em, there's going to be a big demand. Here out'n this town, I'm a lyin'," declared one country- you go, gentlemen. Every handsome man who buys a box is presented with a pocket-mirror."

"You usually are," retorted another. Thus Sam rattled away, getting rid of one thing on, stop de injine." Sam knew he had the people solid, but to make and another, selling his trinkets, notions and pa-

gang the worth of it, and every now and then toss-In the evening, when all was lighted up, and ed in a song or a dance, or both, or a solo on the

The more the crowd bought, the more they want-"Now, then, ladies, secure your seats. Men ed to, and in an hour Sam had cleaned out all his shuah."

lights, please. We haven't got in our new electric, Tooth paste, shoe blacking, hair dye, corn salve, incandescent, effervescent, don't-give-a-cent re- stationery and cologne went a flying, and at last howled Jeremiah. volving lights yet, but I reckon we'll electrify you, there wasn't as much as a paper of pins left out of the small stock, and dress goods, cooking stoves . "The first spasm in our catalogue of horrors and burglar alarms had to be put up.

"Oh, yes, and our diamond-stude, if the weather

"What are you going to do when the snow

"Do as the bobolinks do, go S uth, I reckon."

"Cost you more for licenses, my son." "Well, I can soak 'em on prices. Your real Southern aristocrat won't buy a thing unless it's got a big price on it. Let grand opera go there his knees shook together like clappers. and show at fifty cents a seat and nobody will attend, but a nigger show can come along and jiffy and then stood gazing at the machine. charge a dollar and the house will be packed."

"You've got a big head, Samuel."

"No, sir; Idon't drink."

The next day was spent in the same town, for Sam had struck it rich and meant to work it for all it was worth, and not skip out after one night as he did in the smaller places.

That day Sam received a small electric machine hot haste. by express, having bought it to experiment with and as an addition to his show.

and seeing how it worked, when in came Solo-don't believe he would touch it now with a forty mon, looking very mysterious, and said:

"I'se got suffin' to tell yo', Marse Sam; suffin' "Oh, I'll contrive to give him a shock now and bery 'portant."

"Well, Young Ebony, what is it?"

"Dey's a prar meetin' in town to-night, ober at Peter. de col'd chu'ch."

"No? You don't say?"

"Yas'r, an' I fink fader 'lows he's goin', kase "Glory!" he ejaculated. "Didn' neber 'spect h'm been singin' cam' meetin' tunes all de dat de boss toted de debil roun' in a box. Reckin aft'noon."

"Now go and send your father in here, but don't

tell him that you've said anything to me." "No, sah, I won', not de fus' word."

"Gorry! reckin I tell de boss ebery day dat

for ten cents, two tunes twenty and three tunes a fader's gwine off ter meetin', ef I git a quartah walking on it, his knees were stiff, and his tongue quarter. Have music in your family without hav- ebery time; yas'r, I do dat fo' sahtin, Wondah I had a regular ulster on it, a coat being nothing to

In a few minutes Jeremiah came in, looking par-

"Yew sen' fo' me, boss?" and seaw daimerel.

"Yes. We're trying to fix this machine, and we a pretty big place. too, he said:

"Hol' on to dem han'les, boss?"

"That's it, and mind you don't let go either." "No, sah, I hol'on jes' like de ol' debil do when

The coon got a shock, of course, and tried to So Jeremiah elimbed down, uniform and all, and

militarie ban's ban't you don't work in the said the said and said to the said and said the said starting.

"Oh, boss, fo' de Lawd's sake, stop de machine."

"Don't you let go, Jeremiah!"

"Fo' de lan' sakes, I kean't. Whoa, dar! hol'

How that poor coon did hop and skip!

Peter was nearly dying with laughing, but Sam was as sober as a judge. "Hol' on, boss, hol' on, fo' de lub of de Lawd."

Sam gave an extra turn to the crank, and said: "You were thinking of sneaking away to meet-

ing to-night without asking permission?" "No, boss, 'deed I wasn'. I war gwine to ax yo',

"Is that so?" and Sam gave another turn.

"Yas'r, I wasn't gwine ter say nuffin' bout it,"

"But you wou't go now?"

"No, boss, no, take my ouf I won'," cried Jeremiah, dancing up and down like a jumping jack. " And you won't go at any other time without

"No, sah. Oh, boss, fo' goodness sakes please

"Are you sorry?" "Yas'r, berry sorry."

"And you won't try to deceive me again?"

"No, sah, never." "Sure?"

" Hope ter die if I do, boss."

"All right," and Sam turned off the current.

Poor Jeremiah's face was the color of ashes, and

He released those innocent looking handles in a "Am dat really fo' truly a sewin' machine, boss?"

he asked at length, when he had given it a good look. "Certainly. Didn't you feel the needles? If I

had wanted to, I could have sewed you all up." "Fo' de lan' sake," muttered Jeremiah. Then, evidently afraid that Sam would try it

ngain, he suddenly bolted out of the room in red "That's the best thing yet," chuckled Sam

"It'll fetch that coon every time." He and Peter were trying it just before supper "Yes, if you can get him to take hold, but I

foot pole,"

then, just by the way of warning." "You fetched him this time, anyhow," laughed

Jeremiah John was all broken up and didn't get

over the scare for an hour.

I'se gotter keep putty straight 'less he cotch me "All right, Solomon, you're a good boy. There's agin. Reckon it ain' no sin ter go ter meetin'. De debil can' tech me fo' dat! Guess de sin am in "Tank yo', Marse Sam. Yo's bery kin' to a gwine off wifout leabe. Gorry! I lock out fo' and se'f aftah dis, ef dat's what's gwine ter happen ebery time I wanter go anywheahs wifout savin' nuffin', odralen ent the neighborning

The next morning, when they started off, Jere-Then Solomon ran off, muttering to himself miah complained of being sick, and he certainly did not look particularly brisk.

He had a headache, his back felt as if he'd been

the white garment it wore.

He didn't say very much, but Sam noticed that he did not play the bugle with his accustomed vivacity, and so, when they struck the next town,

"What's the trouble, Mr. Smith? You don't ap-"What kin' ob machine am dat, boss? Sewin' pear to be yourself this morning at all. What ails

"Well, you'd better go to a doctor, then, and get some medicine."

"Whar I foun' one, boss?"

"We passed a big drug store half a block or so behind," said Peter, the party being now in the public square.

tor, I guess."

started back to find the drug store.

"What is it-a patent medicine seller?"

like that the show must be a ripper."

Jeremiah paid no attention to these remarks,

pill palace, opened the door and went in.

A smiling clerk, who was flirting with a lady "Why, what's the matter with him?" customer, looked up, grinned broadly and asked his errand.

"Kin yo' tell me whar I fin'a doctah, boss?" ask- 'tickin' out, jes' like a fool." ed Jeremiah. "I'se bery sick, an' wan' de mos' The clerk grinned, and then said: 'mediate 'tention."

"Why, yes; there's Dr. Bolus, he just went out oxygen and-" of here a moment ago. He went up the street. If you walk fast you'll catch him."

"What sorter lookin' man am de doctah, sah?"

ries a little leather medicine case."

"A' right, sah; I fin' him, sure 'nuff." Then Jeremiah bolted out of the door with the speed of a messenger boy going to his hash.

He met the doctor right in front of the store. Stopping the rotund and jolly-looking physi-that I know the diagnosis of-"

cian, he asked:

sick dis mo'nin', an' I dunno as I kin lib mo'n a one." few houahs."

The doctor smiled, being considerable of a wag and practical joker himself, and then said:

"Oh, is it as bad as that?"

"Yes'r, it am wuss. Neber war so sick befo'. Spec's if I don' get some 'lief putty quick I kick de fool?" bucket."

"H'm! you do look pretty bad," muttered the doctor, "but I guess I can fix you up."

"Kin yo', doctah?" cried Jeremiah John, joy-

ously. "Wha' yo' gwine ter do fo' me?" "Shut your eyes and put your tongue out-away see anything else of him.

out, further vet, and don't move till I tell you." more or less, of long red tongue.

his eyes closed and his tongue sticking away out clapped his hand to his mouth, and went dancing had no idea of going to meeting to-night." and extending an invitation to all the flies in the around like a madman. neighborhood.

preparing to steal away, "very nice, indeed. swaller red-hot stuff like a dat!" you. Put out your tongue a little further, than ever. please."

There wasn't very much more to put out, unless Jeremiah turned himself inside out, but he man-

aged it somehow or other.

The dizzily attired coon, in his big green and gold coat, knee-breeches, silk stockings and buckled shoes to match, with his big gold-laced hat, standing there with his tongue stuck out, was funny enough to make a cat laugh.

There he stood, in all his grandeur, as stiff as a stone, with his tongue exposed to the air, while away.

Did that comical coon attract any attention as he

stood thusly?

Did he? Well, just wait, and you'll see.

CHAPTER XIII.

THERE stood that big coon, Jeremiah, in all his glory, in the middle of the walk, with his eyes shut and his tongue sticking out.

He might have been a stone for all the motion he made.

Of course such a figure could not stand there long without drawing notice.

It wasn't long, therefore, before the youngsters ing at it when Jeremiah came along.

began to gather around. and mid spant your file

They came in ones, twos and threes, and by droves, and all stared at the coon.

marks. "What's that colored man standing there for?"

"Is he trying to catch flies or what?" "Guess it's what." and of all policy and ford seand

"Don't he look funny?" How this to the

tongue,"

tongue.

Then he saw that gang of kids looking at him. The doctor had vanished, and only the young-however. sters remained.

dat fo'?" ward to snatch the silver! ward to snatch the silver!

his soul.

"Dr. Bolus?" asked the clerk.

Then he wished that h h'm?"

but went straight on, and presently arrived at the "Dat's him. He'm no good. I wouldn' hab him doctah a sick kitten."

he wen' away an' lef' me dere wif my tongue "What's the matter, Solomon?" asked Sam,

"Why, that was all right. Your tongue needs muttered the little nig.

"Wha' kin' ob gin jew say? I'se temp'ance, I is, an' I don' drink nuffin."

"Short and stout, and good-looking, and car-air, and it's very necessary to have plenty of it, hasn't been heated." You do look pretty sick, and I guess your stock "Wha' fo' it bone my fingahs, den?" has run low."

"Am it so bad as dat?" muttered Jeremiah, show the coon that it's all right."

nervously.

"Know de noses of de case. How many noses shock.

"Kin yo' gib me a 'scription, doctah? I'se bery duz a man hab, fo' goodness sakes? I'se on'y got

"Your symptoms, I would say."

"Oh, yas, I unnerstand."

"I'll fix you all right in a jiffy, my dear sir. Just put out your tongue and shut your eyes."

"Oh, no. You won't stand very long, I fancy." Then Jeremiah shut his eyes, opened his mouth, only more so. and thrust out that long tongue of his.

"Open your mouth a little wider, if you please." off his feet, Jeremiah opened his mouth till you couldn't

Then that funny clerk got a bottle of some par-Jeremiah closed his eyes and thrust out a foot, ticularly hot stuff and soused about a quart of it into that cavity.

He stood there like a very gorgeous wax figure. Jeremiah gave a gulp, a gasp and a howl, little moke.

"Wow-ow! fo' goodness sakes, does yo wanter! "H'm! very nice case," muttered the doctor, scal' me?" he growled. "Does yo' fink I kin so to hisse'f."

He wasn't going to be made a laughing stock of by every silly drug clerk if he knew it.

He got his fighting temper away up and proceed-

ed to sail into that clerk.

b'lieve in fightin', 'cept on 'special 'casions, an' dis am one ob de 'casions."

he had ever hit him, would have made hash of fus' place." him in short order.

the doctor softly giggled, and then as softly glided and grabbing up a mineral water bottle, touched the stopper, and let that coon have the stream coon went out the door Sam helped him considerright in the jaw.

> That was something Jeremiah had not expected, and he beat a hasty retreat.

minnit to fix him up brown, but he done it fo' me in less time dan dat."

Then he returned to the wagon feeling considerably better, the hot stuff having warmed him up and settled his stomach. He to broke a good

Sam had heard of the little racket the doctor had played on the coon, for it was now all over the prayer meeting without permission." street, like the mud, and he and Peter were laugh-

Sam then drove to the hotel, saying nothing to Jeremiah, however, as he perceived that that coon "No, Jeremiah, I did not, and that's why I kickwas looking pretty mad.

The afternoon was apont as nevel to be a few out."

They stared and they stared, and they made re- was fooling with his electric machine, and said in ob mine tellin' lies." a whisper:

> to de col'd meetin' dis ebenin' ef he get a chance." cious son of his. The for soil I has moon eb man how There was a look of expectancy in that little He grabbed Solomon before that youthful moke

That oh was so spontaneous and unanimous, on him the day before had produced good results, Whack, whack! that it made Jeremiah open his eyes and pull in his and he argued that fiction would work as well as "Dat's fo' lyin' bout me, Solemon Sniff! How hardlet wall be truth attender and to condited out of annual attender of

Sam was up to that young coon's little racket, Whack, spat, thwack!

Jeremiah realized that he had been badly sold. me. Here's a quarter for you."

"Do idea!" he muttered. "Wha' dat doctah do How that little nig's eyes danced as he came for- "Jes' a min' ter lick yo' till yo' can' 'tan up, yo'

"Awfully stunning, ain't he? If they all dress "Wha' fo' yo' sen' me to dat big fool doctah, All that Solomon saw was the quarter, and he

Then he wished that he had not tried it. It stung him like a dozen needles, all sticking

into his fingers at once. He dropped that quarter in a jiffy, and stuck his

"H'm! he tol' me tu 'tick my tongue out, an' den fingers in his mouth.

quietly good bas so sensoord might this virginothers

"I didn' fink yo' do dat to me, Marse Sam,"

"Do what, Solomon?"

"Put dat quahtah in de flah till um war red-hot, an' den ax me fo' to pick it up."

"Oxygen I said; that's something that's in the "Why, that quarter is all right, Solomon. It

"I'm sure I don't know. Pick it up, Petey, and

Peter had a couple of little glass thimbles on his "Yes, indeed; but I guess I can fix you up now finger ends, and when he lifted that electrified cent he was insulated, and so it did not give him a

> "You see, it's all right," he said, and then he dropped the quarter on the plate again.

"There you are, go and take it." "Why didn' yo' gub it ter me when yo' had um?"

"Pick it up, Solomon," said Sam.

Solomon did not know about that, but thought "Yo' won' leabe me stannin' yer like a big that perhaps he had better make a second attempt to collar that coin.

He did so, and with a result similar to the first, Sam gave him a shock that nearly knocked him

"Ou-wow! 'Spec de debbil am in dat quatah!"

he howled, as he dropped it. "Solomon," said Sam, with mock solemnity,

'you have been lying to me." "Take my oaf I habn't, Marse Sam!" cried the

"Yes, you have, and you know it. Your father

"Yes'r, he did, really fo' truly. I heard him say

"Solomon, that quarter is a magic coin," said Don't move now, or open your eyes, till I tell The clerk laughed, and Jeremiah got madder Sam, with great impressiveness. "If an honest boy takes it, all right, but if a bad or lying boy tries to pick it up it burns him."

Fo' de lan' sake, am dat so?" cried Solomon, his eyes sticking away out like a crab's.

"Yes, sir, and that's how I found you out?" "'Deed, boss, I haben't tol' no lie't all," cried "I'se a membah ob de church, sah, an' I doesn't Solomon, who was eager to possess that quarter. "All right, if you haven't, pick up that quarter."

"Wall, I guess I don' wan' nuffin' fo' tellin' yer," Then he went for that funny drug clerk and, if muttered Solomon. "I didn' 'spec' nuffin' in de Then he started to leave the room, and Peter

> barst out laughing. "You little liar!" cried Sam, and as that young

> ably with the toe of his boot. "A few minutes later Jeremiah came into the room and said:

"Gorry, didn't fink he war gwine ter shoot!" he "Wha' fo' yo' kick my boy fo', boss? Am it in de gasped as he rushed out. "I jes' on'y wanted a coutrac' dat yo' is ter kick him wheneber yo' like?" "I kicked him because he lied to me," answered Sam, "and I'll kick him every time he does it."

"Dat boy lied ter yo', boss?"
"That's it." That's it." "What he lie bout?" " Danielon's

"He said that you were going to sneak away to

"De little willin!" muttered Jeremiah. "Neber had no sech 'tentions 'tall, boss. Jew b'lebe I

The afternoon was spent as usual, in working up "Sarbe um right, boss, sarbe um dead right. They were of all ages, sizes and sexes, of all the town for the evening.

Classes and conditions, and all had something to Just before supper Solomon came to Sam, as he I'se a membah ob de chu'ch, an' I can' hab no son Yo' kin 'peat de dose ebery time yo' cotch him.

whisper:
"Yo' wanter look out, boss. Fader am gwine stave out of the cellar, and then found that menda-

coon's face which Sam tumbled to in a moment. knew what was coming, and chucked him over a "Oh, he's doing that for a bet." Solomon was working a racket to get another horse block.

"Wonder if he wants yer ter put a penny on his quarter.

Solomon was dressed for business and had on It was likely that Jeremiah had no intention tights, which were made tighter yet, when Jere-"I'll bet he's got the measles, and it's catchin'." whatever, of going to meeting.

"Oh!" mish bent him double with one hand, and whacked

Neither did he, but Solomon found that telling him over the rear with the barrel stave.

yo' like it?" and sel on of mid any sob south of

"Tell 'tories on yo' fader, will yo', yo' young "You're a good, boy, Solomon, to come and tell willin?"

Then he started for the drug store with anger in Sam placed it on the plate of his electric ma- Whack! Whack!

chine instead of handing it out, however. Every time that stave came across Solomon's Sweeping the youngsters rudely aside, he return- Then he began to quietly turn the crank of his latter end it made the dust fly and raised a welt ed to the compounder of pills, and said angrily to machine. The ball an inch thick. The ball an inch thick. that stave.

no purpose.

belted away with the other.

at that.

yo' know what yo' get."

Whack is we me life doll

ow-ow, fader, plea' don' whip me no mo'!"

Jeremiah had lots of energy and he put it all into "Here, in the first place is our patent never-get- No old horses' hoofs, niggers' heels or decayed hot stove lifter, just the very thing that all house-bootlegs in this, but every cake guaranteed super-Every time he got whacked, Solomon would kick keepers have been crying for for the last three fine and an affidavit given away with each. and yell and scream, and try to get away, but all to generations, and now first put upon the market. "If you want a soporific buy the Lady Wash-Never gets heated, and makes you use cuss words, ington, if you want a subsidy, get the suds here Jeremian held firmly to him with one hand, and never falls on your toes and makes you kick the and-can't work a pun on that, thought I could,

particularly with tight breeches on, and bent double no greasy, dirty rags hanging about under foot, Langtry given away with each box. She uses it, I and never found when they are wanted, to lift it believe, and calls it fine. Peter pass up some "Yo' go roun' tellin' any mo' lies 'bout me, an' with, but always cool, just like ice cream, never more boxes.

"Ow-ow, don' whip me no mo' an' I be good, of Europe, patronized by the President, indorsed other, that's as true as preaching, so step up and by editors, called for by the clergy, praised by the buy while you have a chance.

belted away with the other.

Cat, always handy and never hot."

Save trouble by buying this handy little article; Twenty-five cents a box and a picture of Mrs.

burns your fingers, and always ready. "You all know that being clean is next to being "Used in the kitchens of all the crowned heads good, and if you can't be one you won't be the



There stood that big coon, Jeremiah, in all his glory, in the middle of the walk, with his eyes shut and his tongue sticking out. He might have been a stone for all the motion he made. Ot course such a figure could not stand there long without drawing notice.

This time the barrel stave split in two, and Solo- and in use everywhere. mon gave such a jump that he got away from his "Price ten cents, and a box of matches thrown wrathful parent, and tumbled off the horse-block in. Always did like good matches-that's why I to the ground.

he knew would return whenever he wanted to sit Buy one and see for yourself; going at ten cents.

muttered that young coon. "Fus' de quahtah cents." bone my fingahs, den' de boss kick me out, and The lifters went and then a lot of pancake turn- six cakes in every box, our trade mark on each den fader wallop me like de dooce till I kean't sit ers; then suspenders, handkerchiefs and shoe cake. Toss 'em some more, Peter; never struck

However, the lesson was not lost on him, and he forks.

never tried to fool the boss again. own se'f."

introducing the trick dog. Moses, making Jere-got off that joke to this crowd, did I? I've had it Sam thought it about time to have a little fun. miah blow his bugle, and playing on the banjo with for some time and it needs shaving, badly, it has He brought out his little electric machine, placed Peter, Sam stepped forward, opened his budget whiskers on it, but I guess I can use it again, it on the stand and said: and cried:

want to find real genuine no-dodging bargains, the for all that. kind you read about but seldom see, the regular "Everybody uses soap, or ought to, if they don't, "They don't believe in such shocking things,"

[public, wanted by women, mourned for by men,]

have darky footmen with black horses-but these Then he went limping off, feeling a sadness which matches match the lifters; they are a necessity.

down, and trying to choke down his sobs. "Everybody likes to get a lift in life, and every-"Dere! reckin yo' won' wanter tell any mo' lies body ought to have a lifter: can be used to crack bout me, sah!" called Jeremiah after him. "De nuts, open oysters, amputate tomato cans, poke bery nex' time I cotch yo' at it, Marse Sam he kick the fire, pull off your boots with, or to chuck at you f'om de room an' I lick yo' aftahwuds." | the cats on the back fence of a night. Most useful "So you see soap has its uses, as well as its "Neber did see such a onlucky boy as I be," little thing you ever saw, and sold for only ten abuses, but the thing is to know how to make the

down, an' all fo' jus' tellin' a lilly bit cb a story." |buttoners, and after them a lot of knives and such a dirty crowd, guess they haven't seen any

"This soap will wash anything. Shipwrecked dozen.

gilt edged sort, don't you know. and here's a kind that will please the whole world, said Peter.

"There was a young man of Oshkosh, Whose parents could never make wash, Till they made him choose soap, Or the end of a rope. And vowed they would thrash him, by gosh.

or serves but serves to There was a man out in Calcutta. Preferred eating soap to butta, Till at last too much lye. Did cause him to dye. And he ended his life in the gutta."

best of what you have. Twenty-five cents a box, soap for six months."

"Try our Lady Washington soap, ladies. We Sam must have been eating soap by the way his "Don' car' if fader runs away ter meetin' ebery call it that because I saw a lady washing tons of tongue rattled, for soap makes things move easier day," he growled. "Bet ver life I won' tell nuffin', clothes with it, and because I'm patriotic, and be- if well rubbed in, they say, and that lively young Ef de boss don' wan' him to go, let him watch helieve in George Wash, the father of his country. peddler talked at the rate of seventeen to the

That evening, after singing two or three songs, sailors can wash themselves ashore with it. Never After a while when trade began to slacken a bit

You needn't laugh, if you don't want to. Don't "Now then, ladies and gentlemen, I propose to "This way, this way, ladies and gents, if you think it's very funny myself, but the soap is good show you a few simple tricks in electricity. Does anybody want a shock?"

"Then maybe you'll show them how it's done?"

"Certainly, anything to oblige."

Peter then took a little shock for a cent, and after that Sam showed some experiments with dancing puppets with a fur muff and other things.

Presently a tall, raw-boned rustic stepped up to the platform and said:

gave t'other feller?"

"Certainly, and a bigger one, too."

o' them handles wuther I wanter or not?" our him erout Punced of hear

"Certainly."

"Bet yew a nickel yew can't." "I'll double your stakes, my friend."

"Then yew'll lose, b' gosh."

"I don't think so."

"Wall, I know so, an' I'm willin' ter bet ye a of that in two shakes. quarter yew can't."

"I'll go you half a dollar on it."

"Yew'll lose."

" All right; step up here and try."

The rural citizen ascended the steps and took hold of the handles while Sam began to turn.

that." Sam gave him more but he did not seem to mind grateful.

I like." "All right, let go of them now," and Sam sent for what you did for me to night."

the wheel spinning around like blazes. "Ow-ow, leggo!" yelled the rustic, beginning to Peter.

"Why don't you let go?" inquired Sam, getting membah ob de chu'ch."

up more steam.

"Hold on thar, yew pesky critter!" howled the countryman, beginning to dance.

"Stop her, stop her, I say, stop her!"

"Where's your quarter now?" The hayseeder jumped and squirmed and kicked five dollars now, as a present." while the crowd laughed itself sick.

"Why don't you let go, Perkins?" "Can't shock you, can they?" "Why don't you hedge, old man?"

"Hold on, don't gimme any more, hold on."

But Sam gave her another twist, knowing that me, boss," said Jeremiah, modestly. the whole capacity of his machine was not enough to hurt the fellow.

It was more than the fellow wanted, however, and suddenly, when he got another shock he lifted up his big foot and sent table, electric machine let you go." and the whole business flying.

Sam landed on the ground with the wrecked ap- I'll ax yo'." paratus on top of him, while the enraged country-

man struck out right and left.

He took Jeremiah in the stomach, and sent him count up their gains for the night. flying into the interior of the wagon, all doubled "The machine wasn't all busted, was it?" asked dis. Hab yo' made yo' peace wif de Lawd?

the platform and into the middle of the crowd in a think, though, that after this I'll try it on less musjiffy.

Was.

the rest of the firm, and then Country had the him," chuckled Sam. "That moke is a treasure." platform to himself.

tered, angrily: "Come up here, the hull crowd on ye! Play you do he'll be walking over you in less than no get long a-ways. roots on Josh Perkins, will ye? Wall, I guess time." not."

ing himself up.

"Wall, vew better come an' collect it then, if I Jeremiah, meanwhile, was congratulating himnot de oder one, de one wha' lead to de pit, an'

do," growled Josh.

rustic. "I'd jest like to give him an' yew the ger! dat am de bes' ting dat eber happen. Won' "Dat am a easy road fust off, bred'ren. It am durnedest lickin' yew ever had. I kin lick any dere be a great outpo'in ob de sperrit de nex' time all smoof as glass; de streets am all paved fust

down till I dew it, nuther." "Turn the hose on him!"

to come up an' tackle me."

Sam's lamps, to scatter his stock around, and to Kin I go, sah?" raise mischief generally.

now came to the rescue.

him that that countryman would do no end of "Yas'r, I be in by ten o'clock, shuah." back to de cross-roads an' get on de right track damage. "Very well, see that you do."

around and felt a case of shoe blacking right un-Sam made his preparations accordingly, but said to yank sinnahs out ob de wrong road an' fotch

der his hand.

bottles of blacking, stuck them on his arm and to the colored church, going around the road and right up short, an' druy back to de fol'. over a bridge some two miles distant.

Whack!

One took him on the head, bursted and altered his complexion at once.

Spat I was not a sound as a second

down his back. Squash ! Tours news at live admit to and ath

This time he got the bottles in one, two, three "Bay, mister, kin you give me a shock like you order, and began to look like the spotted man in in'." the museum.

The bottles were of very thin glass, and the force Peter of Sam. "D'ye meanter say yew kin make me keep holt with which Jeremiah turew them caused them to

break every time. The rustic tried to dodge, but Jeremiah's next nights." shot caught him right in the mouth.

That was too much, and with a yell he turned

and jumped off the platform. Then the crowd got at him and hustled him out

"Jeremiah John, you're a trump," said Sam, "and ought to have a medal."

CHAPTER XIV.

"H'm, that ain't nuthin'. I kin stand more'n of that contumacious countryman by bombarding der and madder. him with bottles of blacking, and Sam felt very

"You ain't half a bad fellow, Jeremiah John," ter shut up shop entirely." "Tell you I kin let go o' them handles any time he said, when they had shut up the shop and driven back to the stable, "and I'll remember you

"Won't you have a drink of something?" asked

"No, Marse Petey, I neber drinks nuffin', I'se a

"Then take a smoke?" suggested Sam.

"No, t'ank yo', boss. Dat am agin my rules,

"Well, I'll raise your wages, anyhow," said Sam. "I'll give you a dollar a week extra, and here's ber of pegs.

"Yo'm bery kin', boss," said Jeremiah.

"Not a bit of it, Jeremiah. You saved my stock and wagon from destruction, and I owe you something for it."

"Dev's one ting I would like ter hab yo' do fo'

"Lemme go to pra'r meetin' now an' den, boss." ger town, and now suppose we hitch up?" Sam laughed, but said at once:

"Well, Jeremiah, if you don't ask too often I'll

"Tank yo', boss; yo'm berry kin', an' dat's all

"All right," said Sam, and then he and Peter

Solomon got a kick in the rear that sent him off "No, it can be fixed up at a slight expense. cular fellows than that lout."

Peter was knocked out of time in one round, and "But how he did look when Jeremiah began to

"I'll send my book-keeper around." "I'se gwine ter meetin' wifout habin' ter run wha' de ole debbil am waitin' at de toder end to "Guess yew better, gol durn ye!" muttered the away on de quiet," he chuckled. "Glory hallelu-take yo' in. man in this hull crowd, an' I ain't goin' tew git I has a chance ter get ter meetin'? Wall, I reckin. class; dere am roses growin' by de side ob de road; Oh, bress de Lawd," and that happy moke laughed de houses am all fresh white-washed, an' de coons

Boss, dere am a lub feas' an' pra'r meetin' in de roses'll wilt, de high-toned coons is grianin' deb-Then that mad countryman began to smash col'd Mefodis chu'ch crost de riber, dis ebenin'. bils, and in ebery one ob dem white-washed

He was still inside the wagon, but he now felt Knowing that Jeremiah would not be on hand "Dat's wha'de gospul am fo', belubbed bredren,

Thump! consequence of disobedience. wahnin'—lemme show yo' de way—"

Something was going to happen for all that, however. a man a danov do troy and this this by not " Just before time to hitch up, Peter went around

Two more hit him in the neck, exploded and ran to the barn to look for the big nig.

He found only the little one and Sam and said:

"Where's Jeremiah John?" "Donno, Marse Pete, 'less he's run off to meet-

ROLLING THE THE MAIN COLUMN THE COLUMN THE PARTY OF THE P

"And you couldn't keep a watch on him?" asked

"No, he was too much for me."

"You know we wanted him to-night of all

"Yes, I suppose we did."

"We were going to put on a new act."

"Yes, so we were,"

"And you let that coon get away from you." cried Peter, angrily. "There's no denying it." "And your name is Smart! You ought to change

"Reckon I ought." "The idea! It's perfectly ridiculous the way JEREMIAH had done Sam a service in getting rid that moke goes on," continued Peter, getting mad-

> "Yes, so it is." "And you make him worse! I declare, we'd bet-

"It is pretty bad," said Sam, quietly.

The madder Peter got, the more cool and collected Sam became.

Finally, when Peter got his mad away up to the

boiling point, Sam said, quietly: "It's all right, Petey. Just hold your horses. Jeremiah came to me and asked permission to go, and I let him off."

" Oh !"

That was all Peter said.

He wilted right away, and came down any num-

"Why didn't you say so?" he asked, somewhat

"On, I wanted to see you fume a bit." "Well, you saw me," laughed Peter, good-naturedly. "I was just getting ready to chew that coon up when he came back."

"We'll put off the new act till we get to a big-

Jeremiah, meanwhile, was on the way to meeting, feeling as proud as the drum major of a hightoned regiment.

When they reached the church and the services began, he had more to say than the minister even. "Bredren an' sistahs, I'se jes' got one wo'd to went up-stairs to have a chat and a smoke, and say to yo'," he shouted, jumping up in his seat, when the first hymn had been sung, "an' dat am

> "Ef yo' habn't, yo' bettah do it berry sudden, or r de do' 'll be shet an' yo'll hab to look out fo' de wraf ob de Lawd. Tol' yo' what. Yo' bettah do anyfing else dan get de Lawd agin yo'.

"Bredren, dere am two roads in dis yer worl', was under the wagon before he knew where he pepper him with those bottles. He was all over an' yo' hab all gotter trabel one or de oder ob dem. Yo' kean't go cross lots to heaben, nohow, but yo' Poor Moses, the trick dog, was sent kiting after "Yes, and then the coon knocked spots out of be gotter get inter de stret an' narrer road.

"One road, bredren, am de stret an' narrer road "Oh, yes, he isn't so bad when you keep him what leads to eberlassin' bliss. It am a hand road He gazed around as mad as a wet hen, and mut-well in hand, but you don't want to spoil him by to trabel, full ob sticks, and stuns, an' all dem letting him think he's a wonderful fellow, for if tings, but it ain' half so hahd as de oder arter yo'

"Bum-bye yo' kin see de glory ob de promise "I'll risk the promenading," said Sam, quietly, lan' a-shinin' 'long de way, an' de angels comin' "You owe me a quarter, Josh," cried Sam, pick- as he blew a great cloud of smoke toward the ceil-down de paff to meet yo', a-singin' glory an' playin' on de golden Jew's-harp as putty as a show. "Dat am de road yo' wanter trabel, bred'ren, an'

in the joyfulest way he knew how. am dressed in deir bes' duds. "Hit him with a brick!" Three or four days after this when they had "Jes' yo' wait till yo' get 'long a way on dat road, "Put him in a cage!"

Struck a quiet river town, Jeremiah went to Sam bred'ien, an' I tol' yo' fo' truly dat yo' wish yo'd neber took it. Yo' shoes'll burn off'n yo' feet, de

aise mischief generally.

"Certainly," said Sam, "but you mustn't ask to "Ef yo' get on that road, bred'ren, jes' yo' done Jeremiah John was on hand, however, and he go again this week."

turn roun', fo' yo' go too fah. Ef yo' don' dere "No, boss, I won', fo' shuah." | won' be no turnin' back, an' yo' kean't go ober de We came to the rescue. Won' be no turnin' back, an' yo' kean't go ober de He saw that if something wasn't done to stop "All right then, you can go, but be home early." fiel's an' get to de oder road. Yo's jes' gotter go

nothing to Peter about it. em up to de frone. It am bettah to go ob yo' own He hauled out a dozen or more small, round After supper a load of coons went over the river cord, but ef yo' won', den yo' orter be fotched

Jeremiah was the biggest and most important and not stay outside 'mong de brack sheep fo' de A bottle struck the rustic on the breast, broke coon in the load, for he had Sam's permission to debbil to cotch up on him pitchfork an' frow into and spattered all over him. go and was not afraid of anything happening in de fiah. Oh, bredren, lemme uttah de woice ob "Brudder Smiff," spoke up one of the deacons, jubilee hymn, and Jeremiah began to look for his big hotel twinkling among the trees, while the "don' yo' tink dut one wo'd ob youah's am a putty friends.

long one? Yo've been talkin' fas' as yo' kin fo' 'bout They had all gone an hour before, forgetting him There was a distant sound of rushing water, but ten minutes, an' I reckon yo' mus' be out ob breff, in their haste. Sing two stanzers ob de Sebenty-fif' Hymn, bredren."

"Fo' goodness sake, how's I gwine to get home on getting to the other side than in listening to all dis time o' night, wif de waggin gone?" muttered sorts of noises.

He paddled away industriously, but when he

sang louder than the whole congregation put to- "Whar yo' lib, brudder?" asked one of the dea- reached mid-stream he became conscious of a gether, and drowned the little organ clean out of cons.

sight.

feet again, and shouting out: 97 WORL HOY I

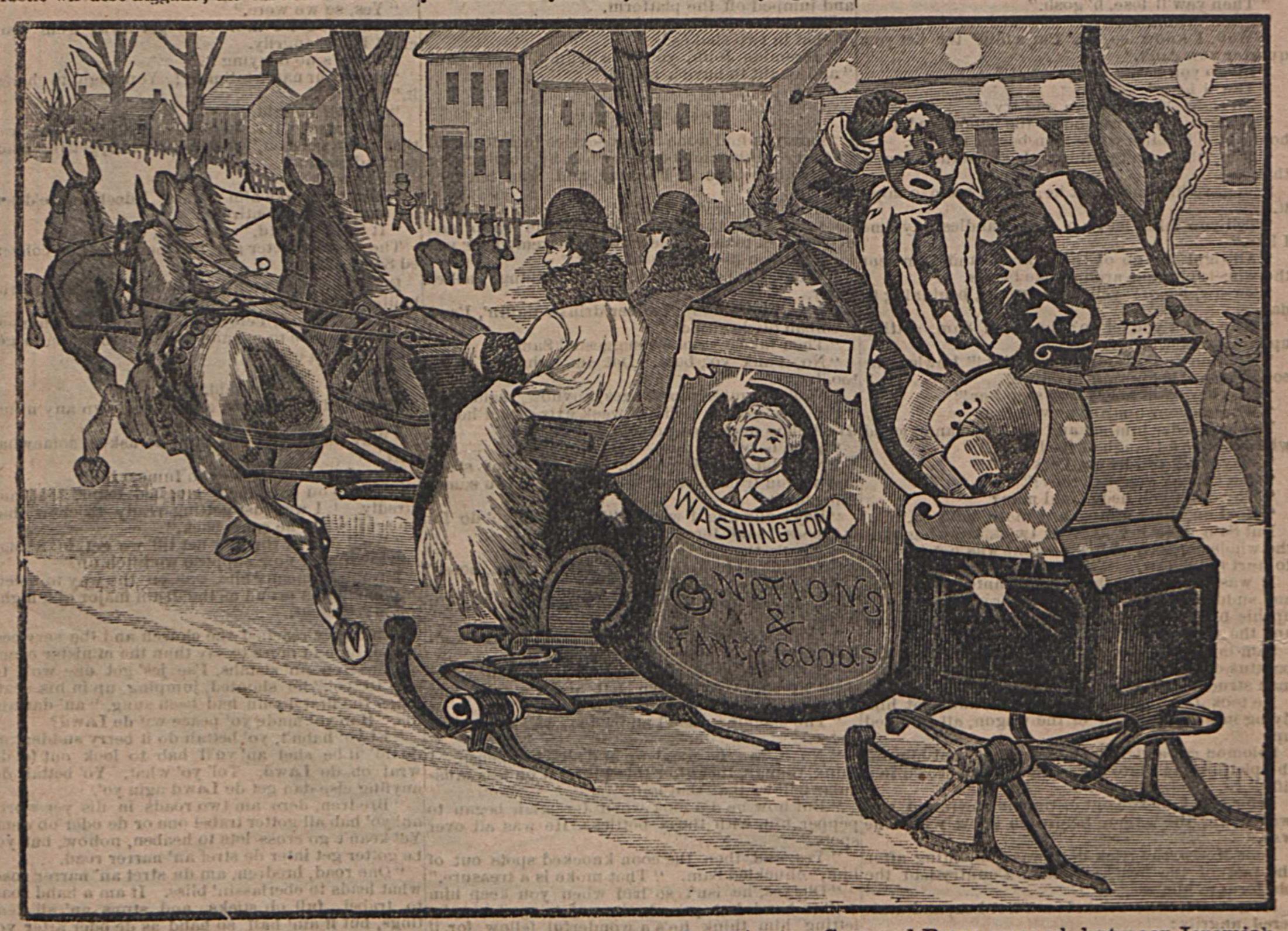
"Les' pray. Deah Lawd, hearken to de woice ob a sinnah. Sen' dy sperrit right down yer an' wrastle wif dese niggans; hit 'em hahd wif de fis' jes' cross f'om yer. Ef yo' take a boat yo' git dar it meant.

strong current, which greatly interfered with his "I'se stoppin' at de Sunset House, ober de oder progress. ".col and repuld a but, Timisheo."

"How yo' come, by de bridge?"

"Yas r. Am dere anoder way?"

Then he became more and more aware of that sound of rushing water, and began to wonder what



He was plastered all over from head to foot with snow in half a minute. Sam and Peter escaped, but poor Jeremiah got it solid. "Fo' de lan' sakes!" he yelled, as he got one in the eye. "Jes' lemme get down there onct, an' yo' won' fink it so funny!"

hab 'pented ob deir sins, an' if dey won', jes' take brudder?" asked Jeremiah, catching at this forlorn de club ob de gospul to dem an' knock some sense hope. It was a muttered, thrusting his oar deep into the water into deir stupid heads. "Yas'r, I'se got a boat down dere what I use and giving it a vicious yank.

de lan', jes' like a showah in dry times when de strike de riber bank, an' dere am de boat. She 'm co'n am all widdered an' de taters enten up wif jes' tied to a tree, an' dev ain't no lock on um." de rot. Oh, dat all de bredren an' sistahs in de "Reckon yo' len' a brudder yo' boat, dekin!"

Jeremiah was choked off for the second time. money lots ob times."

wheezy trombone, got ahead of him again, and descon's generosity, but he had to come down told her experience for fifteen minutes, and after with his little half case before he could have the her, brother Lige Rockbottom exhorted, and then boat, a fallent more land then beat and then boat, a fallent more land then boat, a fallent more land to the land the land then boat, a fallent more land to the land the l the minister had his whack, so that poor Jere- Then the deacon pointed out the road, got him mish seemed to be getting left. started, and wished him good-night.

Jeremiah managed to get the floor again and night, sah?" held it for some time, working those coons up into Jeremiah found the boat lying under the bank

old sister fainted dead away and planed one poor and that not in the very best condition. Lawd sabe dis po' niggah now, fo' no one else kin P thin brother to the seat, under her two hundred "Lau' sakes, what I do now?" Swifter and swifter went the boat, and now the

"Don' yo' go way f'om yer till all dese coons "Jew know anybody got a boat dey wanter len', exertions.

"Oh, dat de powah ob de gospul might be felt in m'se'f sometimes. Yo' jes go froo dis lane an' yo'

lan" Specs I would, fo' half a dollah. I'se a hahd-"De fo'ty-toof bymn," cried the parson, and wo'kin' man, I is, an' dat boat done stan fo' the blade floated down stream.

Then Sister Axlegrease, with a voice like a Jeremiah was reckoning on appealing to the louder.

Things began to get warmed up and the meet- "Yo' kin leab de boat ober dere, brudder," he ing was as lively as one could wish. said, "an' some day I'll go ober an get it. Goo'-

a regular frenzy.

They danced, they yelled, they sang and they painter and shoved out.

pounds of flesh. One oar was better than none, however, and dam was in plain sight.

"You one the a quarter, Josh, "eried Barn, Pick- as he ob bleef, and show dem de sinfulness ob deir in few minuits, an' dat sabe yo' all de trubble ob He paddled away still, but the current insisted on taking him down stream in spite of all his ex-

"Neber did see such a contrary boat as dis," be

The oar suspended operations forthwith. It had never been very robust, and was spliced

in the bargain. At this vigorous usage it snapped in two. The stump was left in Jeremiah's hands, and

So did the boat, while the rushing sound grew

The moon now shone forth brighter than ever, and all at once Jeremiah made a discovery.

There was a mill and a dam just below, and it was the water going over the dam that made all

that racket. Toward this dam the boat was now drifting at a tolerably rapid rate.

All this flashed across that nig's mind in a

"Glory fo' goodness!" he ejaculated. "I'se cried the organist fell down in a fit, and one fat Then he discovered that there was but one oar, gwine stret ter destructium, I am, fo' shuah! Der

There was great jubilation, and the meeting did Jeremiah reckoned be could paddle, on a pinch. "Fo' de lan' sakes! Ebery time I go ter meetnot break up till the lights began to go out. The moonlight shone on the water, and on the in' suffin' is sho' to happen, an' I didn' go way Then the services were wound up with a rattling opposite bank Jeremiah could see the lights of the wifout axin' de boss, eider. Oh, deah! I'se gwine

I is!" watters blands I do return ed at the I

dam, the water rushing over in seething masses. "Oh, deah Lawd sabe dis po' niggah, an' fotch any attention to him. him out ob all dese trubbles," groaned poor Jere-

clasped his hands.

Thump!

The boat suddenly struck something and stuck.

It was the flash beard of the dam.

There was only a few inches of water here, and de hotel." the boat drew more than that, but we as all the

"My pra'r am answered!" muttered Jeremiah, you off." bressed be de Lawd. Reckon dis yer nig ain' Just as the sun rose that poor shivering nig was of it," said some one else. gwine ter die jes' vet. Wondah if I kin wake any- towed ashore by the watenman, to whom he had All this time Sam. Peter and Solomon were taking in body up an' ax 'em to take me asho'?"

to stay where he was all night.

To attempt to walk across the dam to shore, was very much disgusted. even with only that little amount of water flowing "I reckon 'ligion am a bery nice ting," he mut-

over it, was too great a risk.

one false step would have sent him on the rocks 'ligious de bettah." below.

It wasn't to be thought of for a moment.

There the boat stuck, however, and the poor nig roads and fields were all white with snow, the melt." couldn't go one way or the other.

time?"

It seemed not, for a solid fact.

ter go to chu'ch, an' he makes me tr'uble, ebery Smart & C . left town on runners, the wheels be on top of the big snow ball, and then they left him. time, so's I done backslide an' be a sinnah, but I ing unshipped and slung on behind, ready for use Won' do it, no, sah l

"Don' car' what de ole debbil do. I'se on de As they entered the next town Sam prepared to side ob de Lawd an' I'se gwine ter stay dere froo give the natives a big reception.

tick an' tin, bet yer boots!

"Oh, yo' mus' be a lubber ob de lawd, Ef vo' wanter go ter heaben when yo' die, Yo' mus' fight wid de gospul sword, Et yo' wanter go ter heaben when yo' die,

"Kean't frighten away dis chile f'om de paff ob He arose from his seat indignantly, and then he in." dooty, no sah, no martah what yer do. Ain' 'traid got it on all sides. ob de ole debbil 'tall, I is'n'.

"Oh, brudder, heah dem bells a-ringin', Jump on oo'd de gospul train, Oh, don' yo' healt dem angels singin', Jump on bo'd de gospul train; Don' yo' see de conductan comin' roun'? Jamp on bo'd de gospul train, Ef yo' ain't got a ticket yo' get de bounce, Jumpon bo'd de gospul train.

"Yas'r, reckin I'se got a froo ticket fo' glory, an' de ol' debbil ninter gwine ter chuck me off kase dis yer boat am stuck in de middle ob de riber. Oh, deah, why don' somebody come an' took me off. Reckin dey mus' all be dead. Hallo, hallo, hel-looo!" and Jeremiah yelled louder than he ever did in prayer meeting.

gone coon, shuah! Hellup, heliup! Ain't nobody very gorgeous topknot! gwine fo' ter hellup a po' col'd man and sabe him

Tom drowndin'?"

Only the rushing waters answered, for all else trying to dodge the missiles.

TAS dark and still,

That poor coon yelled till he was hoarse, and unally Sam, in his room at the hotel, heard the animated snow-hall. racket.

"That sounds like Jeremiah," he muttered, go-get down an' pallyze dem boys." ing to the window and opening it. "I wonder if Sam reined in the horses and stopped the sleigh, Just then Sam Smart came along, and after laughing he is locked out." Work did him

"Fo' de Lawd's sake, ain' nobody gwine to sabe Instead of that they want for him so for those boys. dis nigrah?" wons lo joi n

"It is he, sure enough, but I can't tell where he coon and made life very wearisome for him. is for the life of me."

Then Sam let out that tremendous voice of his wet, heavy snow.

and shouted across the river:

Glory Hallelujan Smith, where are you?"

When the echoes had died away, bam heard the Answer. a nyant than your rent rent ment link over

"Am dat yo', boss? Wheah is yo'?"

"Where are you?"

"On de riber in a boat, stuck fas' on de dam."

"No danger of going over?" "No, sah, on'y I don' wanter stay yer all

night." "Oh, you're all right!" yelled Sam, and then he shut down the window and returned to his bed,

laughing. "What in thunder are you making all that noise

about, Sam?" asked Peter, waking up. "Is the hotel on fire?"

"No, but that coon is stuck fast on the dam, in a boat, in the middle of the river, and is yelling for help. I heard him away up here."

"Well, let him stay there," growled Peter, rolling himself up in the bed-clothes.

oam, jumping into his own bed. shot million snow.

Jeremiah waited awhile for Sam to come to his What fun it was for the boys.

er be groun' ter pieces on dem rocks, I know rescue, but when half an hour had passed and no Sam appeared he began to call again for help.

Swifter grew the current, and nearer came the This time Sam did not wake up and poor Jere- yo'." he growled. miah had his yelling for nothing, as nobody paid

miah John, as he sank on one of the seats and watchful guardian of the mill had had his little jot of now. nap, he heard that poor coon yelling again and It grew bigger every second, and Jeremiah got madlooked out to see what the trouble was.

"Who's doing all that yelling?" Le demanded. "It's me, boss, I'se stuck fas' an' I wanter get to poor nig stuck in the middle of it.

"Well, stay there a bit and I'll come and take

to pay a dollar for his services. The boat was not in danger of going over the Then he was laughed at by Sam, and Peter, and dam, but unless help came, Jeremiah would have Solomon, and the hotel clerk, and the landlord, and and the boys left it by the side of the road. all the chambermaids, and all the stublemen, and

tered, "but ef I'se gwine ter be trubbled like dis The boards were slippery with green slime, and all m' life, I reckon de soonah I gibs up bein' fortable winter quarters."

The winter which had been holding off for some feet. They're too big, just now." time now took a tumble, and in a few days the

rivers were frozen and Jack Frost had full sway. "Oh, dear! Kean't a po' membah ob de chu'ch Sam had prepared for just such an emergency, "Tra-la-la. Jeremiah John Joseph! I'll meet you 'tend serbices wifout suffin' drefful happenin' ebery and had sent for a pair of runners for his big wag- when the springtime comes, gentle Jere. ' on, to be shipped to a town at which he meant to Away drove Sam, and all the boys followed that gor-

"It am all of Satan's wo'k. He don' wan' me They arrived just in time, and the Lext morning Somebody stuck Jeremiah's stunning hat and bugle in case the snow went away suddenly.

They gave it to him instead. Jeremiah, perched away on top of the big box, had just begun to toot on his bugle, and had reached the middle of the second tararum, when the instrument was suddenly choked up by a big snow-

Every boy in town seemed to have a special spite against him, and the way they peppered him marked the nig.

was a caution. Snowballs flew as thick as bees, and very few

missed the mark. He was plastered all over from head to foot with ob snow."

snow in half a minute.

Sam and Peter escaped, but poor Jeremiah got it in." solid.

"Fo' de lan' sakes!" he yelled, as he got one in mering on the soles of Jeremiah's boots. the eye. "Jes' lemme get down there onet, an' yo' won' fink it so funny !"

CHAPTER XV.

small boy in town,

Jeremiah John Joseph would like to have gone also. "Hi, dar, yo' boys, jes' yo' stop o' dat!" he yelled.

It was no use. They plugged him on all sides, till he looked like an flying into the gutter with a lot of other rubbish.

ready for fun.

"Jeremian John Joseph Abraham Isaac Moses bits of harness and anything that came handy." That was to stop his kicking.

his mental objections.

heavy, sticky, adhesive snow.

snow stuck to him. https://www.nest.office.on.nig.bases.tele

"Keep the hall a rolling, boys." "Give him another turnover."

"He takes the cake, anyhow." "Stop o' dat, yo' boys, or I tol' de boss,"

"Over he goes!"

"Once more for the ice cream!"

"Let her go!"

"Hol' on, hol' on, yo's fillin' my mouf full ob snow." churches and boarding-houses. "Then keep it shut."

"Stop o' dat, I tol' yo'!" "Give him another turn, boys,"

"Yes he's most done now." boll rolling.

The ball was Jeremiah and snow, but mostly snow.

Jeremiah thought contrariwise.

"Lemme get out ob dis, an' I pa'lyze de hull lot ob

They weren't letting him up, however. Instead of that they gave him another cold roll.

The ball was getting almost too big to handle, but the Finally, in the dim, gray moraing, when the gang put their shoulders to it and sent it over a fresh

It was five or six feet high now, and there was that

"Big thing on ice!" yelled the crowd. "African d la creme " remarken one dizzy young gen-

tleman who was just beginning to study French. "Guess the cream must ha' got scorched by the looks

the show and laughing their insides out.

Finally the big snow cylinder got too big to handle,

"Lemme out!" howled the captive coon. He couldn't move, but he could holler as well as

"Lemme out!"

"Better stay where you are, you've got good com-"Wait till the next snow falls and we'll cover your

"You keep on yelling and maybe the snow will

"Hi, boss, is yo' gwine away wifout me?" howled the poor moke, seeing Sam driving off.

geous turnout to see where it went.

Somebody else gave him two or three parting shots with snow balls on the top of his kinky coccanut, and

then they also left him. In fact he seemed to have been left all around, Prestr soon along came the police force of the town. and Jeremiah caught his eye at once.

"What are you doing there?" he demanded.

"Numn."

"Well, you can't loaf around here, so move on." "Wish ter goodness I mought move," sighed the

No back talk. If you don't move on I'll take you

"Wish yo'd take me out fus', Marse P'liceman," re-"What you trying to do, anyhow? Commit suicide?

You'll get arrested for that." "Reckin I'se done been 'rested a'ready, sah, I'se 'rested long 'nuff, an' I wanter get out ob dis yer pile

"No chin, I tell you. Get out of this or I'll run you

Then that highly intelligent police force began ham-

"Stop o' dat!" howled the moke. "Y" jes' wait till I get out ob ver. I'se a membah ob de chu'ch, but I'll pa'lyze yo' all de same fo' dat." "Threatening an officer, eh," remarked the police

force, and he rapped on Jeremiah's soles once more. The poor colored gentleman could not kick, but he Poor Jeremiah John Joseph was the target for every velled like blazes and promised all sorts of dreadful

things to that country cop when he got out. "Hello! somebody, everybody, hello! I'se a How the snowballs did fly around his devoted and At last that soft heavy snow began to settle with its

own weight and when the rural constable pounded on Away went his hat, away went his trumpet, and poor Jeremiah's boots again, a big slab fell off with a squash.

That gave Jeremiah a chance to kick and he did so. with startling results. He took the constable in the stomach, and sent him

The motion released more of the snow and then Jere-"Stop o' dat, I tol' yo'. Hi, boss, stop de hosses till I miah crawled out, looking like the picture of Jack

Frest in the story books. at that big coun all he wanted to he feiched out his knife and cut the ropes and set him free.

Jeremiah picked up his hat and bugle and walked Young men, old men, boys and kids grabbed that poor away to the hotel which Sam pointed out.

"Dat war bery unkin' ob de boss ter let de boys treat First they chucked him down flat in a pig pile of soft, a ro' cold man dat way," he remarked, as he sadly went on his way. "Neber do dat to him, nohow. Ef Then they tied his hands and feet with ropes, strings, he specs I'se gwine ter keep 'way f'om pra'r meetin's aftah dat, he am berv much mistocken."

Shortly after this Sam stood on the hotel steps, tooled His physical ricking, that is, for they could not stop the trumpet, gathered a crowd and shouted out:

"Fellow dudes! come to-night and see the great and Then they rolled him over and over in that soft, wet, only Sam Smart, that's me, the funniest comic singer in the country, the only man who writes his own songs. Over and over he went, and at every revolution more in his newest and best productions, also the French refugee, Monshoo Pierre Pocquette the sweet balladist, with his canine wonder. Moves, the trick dog, likewise Sassy Sol, the funny moke and Brudder Jeremiah, the jubilee shouter. Free show to-night in Perkins' Hall,

come one, come all. "After the show, the great knock down sale will eventuate. All sorts of goods sold at lowest prices. cash on the nail, extra inducements to schools,

Church organs, rocking horses, Christmas trees, dolls, toys, sewing machines, mowing machines, groceries, dry goods, drugs, and wedding presents, everything going cheap, and all warranted genuine. Remember, Boys, old men, young fellows and kids all keeping the Perkins' Hall to-night, at half past seven, door open an hour beforehand, seats free, no extra charge for stand-

ing. The worldwille taug based and attachment by the total All that you could see, of the coon was his head and It was a trifle too cold and blustery to have the sale "That's what I'm going to do, sonny," replied feet sticking out of either end of a big cylinder of in the public square, and so Sam had hired a hall, and in the afternoon he moved a lot of things into it, and got read for business.

The hall was a tolerably big room on the second floor of a big store, and was used for all sorts of purposes.

Town meetings, traveling theatrical snaps, gift shows and mass meetings, had used it, and on Surdays the yelled and stamped and howled, and Sam began to play colored brethern used it to hold services in, having no "A Life on the Ocean Wave." church of their own.

The very Sunday before Sam's arrival, there had been miah. "Dis watah am as cold as ice." a big baptizing racket there, at which all the faithful had been present.

The font was a big hogshead chucked full of water under the platform, and this had not yet been removed.

The planks had been icosely replaced, however, and at the convenience of the deacons, the water would be pumped out.

Sam caught on to the swimming bath under the stage.

but did not mention it to any one.

"Golly! how dat big niggan do go kernop!" giggled Solomon.

Moses barked right in Jeremiah's nose, the crowd

"Fo' de Lawd's sake help me out, boss," cried Jere-

"Ice s'pose so," said Sam.

"That's snow joke," commented Peter,
"Water'n old collar-button?"

"Stop yo' !aughin' and help rie out."
"Peter, go bail the coon out."

"What's he in for?"

"Interrupting the meeting."

"Six months."

He kicked me with his great big boot, This horrid, cruel dad, I feil in the gutter, oh, I should stutter, It really was too bad. So now I've shook sweet Susan, And gone back or the girls, And now I'm afraid, I'll get an old maid,

All wrinkles and corkscrew curls."

This effusion tickled the gang, and Peter had to sing three or four more songs before the audience would let up on him.

"Don't tax the young gentleman too much," said Sam. " He is not feeling well, his great uncle has just "Stop yo' laughin', I tole yo'," sputtered that indig-died and left him a million dollars-to whistle for. Step right up now and examine this little article, the handiest



"Lemme get out ob dis, an' I palyze de hull lot ob yo'," he growled. They weren't letting him up, however. Instead of that they gave him another cold roll. The ball was getting almost too big to handle, but the gang put their shoulders to it and sent it over a fresh lot of snow.

in town." that a free show came to town, and everybody wanted clothes, and then Sam started in again. to catch on to it.

Sam gave his electricity snap, Peter put Moses through his drill, and Solomon did a song and dance. the bugle," said Sam.

planks and keeping it in place. The big darky stepped forward, put his bugle to his pent-up motions in the following dity:

lips, and began his solo. Then Sam got off the end of that plank in a jiffy. Dowr, went Jeremiah's end, away went two or three

other planks and Jeremiah disappeared. Splash! Right into the water-butt he went up to the neck.

"Signor Jeremiah, the man fish, in his great aquatic act," cried Sam.

"This is real water, gents," called out Peter. "There's ne humbug about this."

"Fo de Lawd's sake, boss, how came dat ver watah hyar?" sputtered Jeremiah, his head just sticking above the platform.

"The roof leaks," said Sam. "That's for temperance exhibitions," remarked

Peter.

It is be, sure enough, but I can't tell where he com and mark ber wear some by him genuine hogzhead and actual waves, biggest show ever and they pulled Jeremiah from his impromptu bath-tub, and only costs a trifle. and then nailed down the planks.

place where you buy things, don't you know, you pay how, you can bet. "Now, then. Jeremiah John, give us a breakdown on your money and I take my choice. Solomon, tinkle "Ten cents for this house-keeper's friend. Why. you your grand plano while Peter warbles."

"Oh, I loved my simple Susan, More than any one could tell: She had red hair, her face was fair, She was an awful swell.

She owned a block of houses, She lived in spiendid style.

You can bet your boots, I was up to roots, For I was mashed upon her pile. I went to see her every night,

And stayed till twelve o'clock, I had my eyes upon the prize. Likewise that brown-stone block. I told her that I loved her.

And asked her for her hand, When up came ner dad, so awful bad, And now I have to stand.

"Witness the great regatta scene, with real water, a) Sam invited four big countrymen upon the platform, thing you ever saw, sayes time, labor and hard words,

"Ten cents is all I ask for this combination, gold That evening the hall was packed, for it wasn't often Poor Jeremiah John went off to change his wet prize soup, stain eradicator and blueing powder, makes washing a pleasure and housework a delight. I'm go-"Now, ladies and gents, we'll go on with the show, ing to sell every lady in this town a package of it before and after that will come our great sale, not a sail over I leave, and those that won't buy will have a package the flashing waves below me, but a sale, s-a-l-e, sale, given to 'em. I'm going to introduce the thing, some-

can't buy a good cigar for that much nor for three Then he stepped back, standing on one of the loose Solomon twanged away on his banjo for a few min-times as much, sometimes. Ten cents is nothing. Who utes, and then Peter came to the front and relieved his would ever miss ten cents. You spend that much in beer every day. Walk right up and examine. No extra charge if you buy more than one package. I'm bound to sell this stuff and I'd as lief sell you a hundred boxes as one, little rather maybe."

Sam's saucy ways caught the crowd, and when ten o'clock came he had disposed of everything he had brought into the hall.

Then he gave them an extra show, promised to be on hand the next night, and sent everybody home happy.

The next night he was ready for the crowd, having laid in a lot of new goods, and the way they were rattied off was a caution to old logies.

Sam and Peter stuck to that town till twelve o'clock on Saturday night, and when they drove away on Monday morning folks asked them to come again and stay longer. becard staff you will be

"Oh, I'll be around when the summer breezes blow,"

said Sam. "Over the river, dears; I'll meet you at the bridge; skip the creek; get up, mules!" and with crack- bill and ought to pay it," out of town.

not having been enough to satisfy the demands of the week's stay, taking the minstrels with him. rapacious hotel keepers.

get money enough to take his troupe away, but more with him, as his receipts showed.

probably to save his own skin.

hotel, and a sad lot they were all together.

The minstrels were sad eyed, the baggage was all to his show. broken up, the horns were blown out, the fiddles all un- "The weather isn't too bad for Samuel yet," he restrung, and the drums dead beat,

When Sam saw the disconsolate crowd, he scratched yard, out of the back door of a hearse." his head, consulted Peter, and finally called the leader

of the band into his room, and said;

"See here, Ferguson, I'm going to make a deal with you fellows. If you'll join my show I'll pay your board and a dollar a day all around as long as I stay in this just about this time, literally and metaphorically. town."

"Who's going to pay our last week's bills?" asked the like a boy on skates. leader.

"This isn't my day for answering conundrums, and

I give it up. What do you say ?" "How long will you be in town? You might not

stay more than one night."

"Maybe you want me to give you a certainty," said caught on every time. Sam. "Well, I can't do it, my son. I don't know what betting odds on my drawing the biggest crowd,"

"Well, let's have a rehearsal and you can see what

we can do."

"All right, Ferguson. Let her get!"

han, and the boys began to show what they could do. After a few minutes Sam said in disgust:

do. You can all sing pretty well, that is, you can make regard to street lines. a noise and that's what I want. I'll write you some new songs, you can sing your old choruses, and the whole band can play. Next, we don't want any burned cork. The day for that is past,"

The energetic young fellow then went to work, re- over town in half an hour. hearsed a new programme, and after four or five hours

of hard work got his men in shape.

Then he billed that town away up, gave a concert on The full band played a rattling selection, Sam, roasted peanuts or sugar coated pop-corn.

promised all sorts of things.

"Come and see the original and only Sam Smart tonight at Bolivar's Opera House," he shouted, "All new talent, all new jokes and nothing to pay. A dollar's worth of fun for nothing. Come and laugh and then take in the great sale. A gold watch given to everybody brought forward and Sam opened the ball. who buys a paper of pins. Satin-lined coffins given to every deadhead. A silver bell provided for every old you, and now we propose to show you what we've coppers and sent everybody home as happy as joke. We take the cake, come and get a slice."

when everything was ready, up went the curtain. In a semi-circle on the stage sat the six minstrels,

with Sam on one end Peter on the other and Jeremiah in the middle, the only black face in the whole lot. "Peter," cried Sam, "why is this crowd like a tar-

get?"

around it, a suppose."

again 917

"Because they've left off their black ?" " No."

"Because they've got a new partnery" "Gless again,"

Smart, of course. All together now for the overture."

Sam's composition, Sam and Peter did a song and walnuts, firing at burglars or hanging up your It was airy and roomy, had a carpet on the floor. Sam, Peter, Solomon and his cat, Moses the dog, Jerry a clock for that." the mule Sam's electric machine, Jeremiah and the rest of the mob gave a combination exhibition.

and at last nothing but sale.

put up no paper o' pins yet. I want one."

"Ain't ye got none?" but of an est all the at least Sam.

"No. sir." "Wall, ye said ye'd give a gold watch to every feller what bought a paper of pins, an' I want one."

some, and give you the watch."

"When will that be ?! "When we're a good deal greener than we are at "Now, here we have a clothes-wringer, an arti- "Wondah who dat is wants me at dis time ob present," warbled Sam. "Tra-la-la, Old Innocence, cle that it's a positive pleasure to use, no more night?"

Go get a hair cut and clear out your brain." Everybody laughed, and Sam rattled off a lot of nonsense, selling goods, however, as fast as he talked, and

keeping his eyes open for trade all the time.

The result was that the show was a success, and his

nights running.

you each five dollars a week and all expenses, and that's five cents and a cake of soap included, the cheapall I will do. You're sure of your money, and that's est bargain ever offered.

more than you've ever been before. You can take my offer or leave it."

Again that terrible voice pronounced his name, and our poor coon began to get scared.

He sat up in bed, glanced toward the window, and nearly fainted.

we don't settle up?" Load up your old shot gun with a cake of this knees shook till the bed creaked.

stranded minstre! company, the receipts at the door him, hired an extra sleigh and left the town after a

It was harder to amuse a crowd in a hall than one in

He was able to pay the extra expenses out of the ex- you ever heard of: Troupe, baggage and instruments, were all at the tra money that came in from his increased sales, and did even better than before he had the ministrel annex "Is it worth a man's while to worry and fret,

marked, "and when he gees left it'll be in the bone-

CHAPTER XVI.

EVERTHING was on runners with Sam Smart

In every town he visited he made lots of money, and never stayed less than two or three nights.

He gave a dandy show for nothing, and sold good goods at reasonable rates, and that's where he

The minstrels, the cat, the dog, the trick mule. sort of chaps you are. Now I give a free show. You can the electric machine, Sam, Peter and the two coons, go ahead and give an opposition one if you like, but I'm made a first class combination, and never failed to coliar the cracker.

town, stuck away in the midst of a lot of hills, miles doing all the talking, so I'll give somebody else a

tion. "Well, I don't wonder you fellows busted! Your a town hall, a post office, one big hotel, and a lot they go, and the prettiest girl in the hall gets one jokes need shaving bad. Now I tell you what you can of houses scattered all around without the slightest for nothing."

> No show had been there in years, and when down as slick as grease, and nobody kicked. Sam came along and told them that he was going All hands were buying, and he could sell things to entertain them for nothing, the news was all fast enough, no matter what it was.

the audience was ready for anything.

the hotel steps, covered the snow with dodgers and Peter and Jeremiah got off a lot of jokes and then Now and then a song and dance, a cluster of jokes

Nearly an hour was spent in the opening exer-brisk. cises, and then the stage was cleared, a table Finally the people began to go, and then Sam rat-

got in the way of high class, low-price goods, go-larks. The hall was packed long before eight o'clock, and ing at laughable prices, but all warranted up to high water mark.

"Here you have a bang up silver watch, sold for in. one dollar, can be used for a time-piece, slang-shot, snuff-box, needle-case, card-receiver, or to throw hadn't seen a show in five years."

at the cats.

"Because it has a black center and a white ring "Whoever heard of a watch going for a dollar? Why, the worst old brass case, clock work, given- nights, I reckon." why are these boys like a widow just married away-with-a-suit-of-clothes, take-an-hour-to-wind -em-up watch costs more than that.

"You see I'm a philantropist and I'm giving away these watches for a dollar. They ain't full jeweled solid silver cases, split seconds, weather coon of ours will be sliding off to them." proof balance or anything of the sort, but just an "Yes, we must keep our optics open."

After the overture the whole gang sang a chorus of and can be depended on, also good for cracking fitted up in the barn,

Sam disposed of a dozen of the watches which a lot of stalls before you got to it. Sam sandwiched in the show with little sales of odds were sold at a sacrifice, and then soaked it to the toilet soap.

"Say," said one old countryman, "I hain't seen you "Who wants a nutmeg grater, gents? This is There was no curtain to it, either, and you could meg thrown in. No danger of swallowing these rattling. the celebrities, Mary Anderson, Henry Irving and to go to sleep. "All right, sir. When we have the pins we'll sell you Patsey Bolivar. Will grate wooden nutmegs as Presently he heard a deep voice, right under the well as the genuine kind. I mace say so, because window, pronounce his name: I know, you'll be in clover if you buy one. "Jeremiah, Jeremiah."

and yet it just knocks the water a flying and al- husky voice.

"Every good looking lady in this town ought to coon. sale a triumph, and the hall was packed for four or five have one, the handsomer she is, the cheaper I'll "Jeremiah," and the window began to rattle. sell it to her. Step right up here and get one be- "Wondah who de dooce dat am a-callin' mer will you pay our back bills if we'll go with you?" fore we sell out. Old wringers bought, and new Specs I wo'k hahd 'nuff in de ay times not to be asked Ferguson, as Sam had christened him, though his ones given in exchange. You won't have any sturbed aftah I get to sleep. Who dat, an' what real name was something else. | other after you get this. All the queen's wash- yo' want?" "No, sir, I'm not paying anybody's old bills. I'll give ing goes through one of our wringers. Twenty- Again that terrible voice pronounced his name,

"Well, how are we going to get out of the town if best thing in the world to drive away tramps. His wool straightened out, his jaw fell and his

"Let your manager do that, He contracted for the soap and let her go. Tramps hate the very sight of soap, this'll scatter 'em. Five cents a cake and a ing of whips and blowing of norms the equipage swept Finally Sam got up a big benefit for the hotel keeper, bottle of cologne throw in. Sold a gross of these charged admission, packed the house, made lots of last night to a grocer, yes, sir, I said a gross, At the next place, some ten miles away. Sam found a money for himself, paid the landlord all that was owing sir, to a grocer, if you can tell a grosser story than that I'd like to hear it.

"Now, in order to keep you in good humor, I The manager had skipped by starlight, presumably to the street, and Sam did wisely in taking the minstrels will sing you a little ballad, and then I'm going to offer you some of the most astounding bargains

And wish for a lot of things that he can't get? I don't think so.

Will wishing bring fortune to every one's door, Is it right when you've plenty to ask for some more? I don't think so.

Will lots of fine clothes and a hatful of cash Take a man into Heaven straight at a dash? Will pretty girls ever stop trying to mash? I don't think so.

His business was just booming, and went along will England ever let Ireland alone? Will King Calico ever buy back his throne? I don't think so,

> Will Sullivan ever get licked in a fight? Will the time ever come when two wrongs make one right?

I don't think so. Will Ireland and Italy ever agree? Do Boston baked beans ever grow on a tree? Do you think you will ever get tired of me? I don't think so.

One day Sam entered a regular old-fashioned "However, ladies and gents, I'm getting tired of Sam and Peter met the half dozen minstrels at the from any railroad, but having a pretty big popula-chance. Who says they want to buy something? Speak up, don't be shy. Peter, pass out those lace There were two or three stores, three churches, fans. Every lady that buys one gets a prize. Here

That's the way Sam talked to 'em, and it went

Stove-lifters, fancy soap, clothes-pins, wire bus-The ball was packed as full as it would hold, and tles and music-boxes went with equal celerity, and shoe blacking found as ready a market as fresh-

all hands sang a chorus in a way that hit the buil's or a funny act would be thrown in gratis, but that only tickled the crowd and made business more

tled off a lot of stuff at little or nothing, keeping up "Now, then, fellow-citizens, we have amused a volley of nonsensical talk that fetched out the

> "We roped 'em in fine to-night, hey, Petey?" said Sam, when he and his partner had turned

> "Take your Davy on it, Samuel. Guess they

"Guess they'll stand some more of us too?" "Yes, you can catch 'em solid for three or four

"Seems to be a pretty good-sized colored popu-

lation here, too. Pete." "Yes, plenty of black and tans."

"We must look out for prayer meetings, for that

"Why, it's because they're looking real Smart. Sam easy-going, every day reliable watch with no frills. Jeremiah, by the way, did not sleep in the hotel, "These watches are warranted for two years which was tolerably well filled up, but in a room

dance, while everybody joined in the chorus, and then uncle, and they only cost a dollar. You can't buy and was as stylish as any coon could wish even if it was a part of the barn and you had to walk past

and ends till finally there was more sale than exhibition, gang on tooth paste, shoe blacking, hair tonic and wind, not being particularly tight, but Jeremiah John did not care for that,

a great state and so everybody wants a grater. look right out upon the barn-yard, but that did None sold this evening, sir; all given out," said Here you have 'em, ten cents apiece and a nut-not bother our colored friend any more than the

graters, as they have a life line attachment which He got into bed, having no light but that which enables you to pull 'em up in a jiffy. Used by all the moon gave, covered himself up and proceeded

exertion required than to flirt your handkerchief. "Jeremiah, Jeremiah John," said that deep and

most hangs the clothes on the line for you." "Who dat? Wha' yo' wan' ob me?" called out the

Looking in the window was a great head with big eyes and an awful mouth, looking ready to close upon him.

shaking the window.

for shuah!" gasped the frightened moke.

"Jeremiah!"

wan' me 'tall. It's some oder fell h."

Now the window was not more than three feet from the bed, and poor Jeremiah thought he was gone for sure.

"Jeremiah!" the awful object said once more, put him head inter de winder an' call lo' me loud and wanted to treat each other, it was so funny. as thundah! I ain' done nuffin' fo' de ol' debbil Jeremiah skipped back to his airy chamber and "For de Lawd's sake, de ole debbil got me now ter come aftah me. I'se a membah ob de chu'ch." tumbled into bed, as mad as blazes.

"Jeremiah!" groaned the unknown thing out-an' dribe him away fus." me was pra'r, yas'r, pra'r an' pentance, an' ef yo'

The boss got a big lantern and went out to the hab dem yo'gits dar ebery time."

"And most scared to death."
"Well, if that don't beat anything I ever heard,
"What ails ye, anyhow?"
he, he!"

"Oh, boss, I done see debbil jes' dis minnit. He Then they all yelled and howled and screamed,

"Seen the devil, hey?" " "H'm! dey kin laff much as dey like!" he "Yas'r; he done 'tick his head inter de win-growled, "but it wahnt no ol' calf what scared me "G'way dar, ol' debbil, g'way f'om me. Yo' don' der out dere in de bann, an' holler for me jes' as like dat! It war de ol' debbil, hoofs, horns, tail

nateral."

"Come and show us."

"Specs I git all broke up ober a lilly calf what
"No, boss, I dassen't go out dere while he am don' hurt nobody? Well, I guess not! Dat war 'round, fo' nuffin'. He git me, suah? Yo' go out de debbil, sure 'nuff, an' de on'y t'ing wha' sabe



"Let her go, brudder," he cried to the coon who held the end of the toboggan. The brother let her go, and then Jeremiah and the wenches went flying down that hill at the dizziest kind of speed. "Ain" dis some!" muttered Jeremiah. "Wall, I reckon."

nuffin to do wif yo'." The big eyes, the horrible mouth and the awful voice came closer, the horrible face was pressed

right against the pane. Down fell the lower part of the sash on the floor,

and the thing stuck in its head. "Jeremiah !" it wailed.

lujer, I'se a gone coon fo' shuah!"

Then Jeremiah flew out of that bed, dashed out of the room and went flying through the barn what it really was they hughed themselves sick. with nothing on but his shirt.

He thought he heard the creature calling after all!"

him, and that made him go faster.

Ont of the barn, across the snow and into the house he ran, barefooted and bareheaded, with the mercury away down below the line.

one or two boarders still being in the office.

Jeremiah suddenly appeared amongst them, trembling like a leaf, and clad only in his shirt. "Fo' de Lawd's sake, ge'men, sabe me f'om dat by a calf, ho; bo !!!-

ol' debbil !" he gasped. "Why, it's the big nig!" cold and wanted to get in-doors.

Jeremiah's imagination had transformed its it was one of the best things yet. the rest. many astrony story July July lott

and corn-husk voice, his hairy skin and his hot dent the next time he went to prayer meeting. "Oh, lan'! fo' goodness sakes alibe, glory halle- breath, had changed him from a simple calf to a horrible fiend in poor Jeremiah's mind.

"Scared to death by a calf! Well, that beats of the place.

ho-ho-ho!"

"Called him Jeremiah, too. Well, I never!"

The house was not shut up, the landlord and lond that the poor calf let out a tremendous "I didn' expect to indulge in de spote when I let" bellow and made himself scarce.

"There goes your devil, Mr. Jeremiah," said the

"Thought the old boy had come to fetch him, coschume?" tha, ha, ha!" a diew man and blo more que bloom "Suttinly! Why wouldn' dey? Disam no com-

"G'way! Don' know yo' 'tall. 'Tain' dis col'd barn, followed by the crowd, Jeremiah in the rear. | Sam heard all about Jeremiah's alarm in the man yo' want 'tall. Guess yo' come to de wrong That coon's prince of darkness turned out to be m rning, and although he did not indulge in the house. I'se a membah ob de church an' don' hab a half-grown calf that had been shut out in the tumultuous bilarity that had characterized the landlord's mirth, he enjoyed the joke, and thought

utterances into his own name, and his terror did Jeremiah would not give in that it was anything less than the flend himself who bad paid him that The poor bovine's big eyes, open countenance nocturnal visit, and he intended to use the inci-

During Sam's stay in this town Jeremiah got acquainted with a lot of coons, and one afternoon When the landlord and the others discovered they invited him to go out tobogganing with them, a slide having been started by the high-tuned nigs

Jeremiah felt as proud as Lucifer when the "Thought it was Old Nick come after him, coons gave him this invitation, but he proceeded to put on more airs than a government mule.

"I spec yo' know, sah, dat de bes' sahsity weahs Then all hands exchanged grins and laughed so raglah close when dey go on toboggans?" said he.

"Dat am all right, Mistah Smiff, dey hab all dese landlord. "Guess you can go to bed now. Scared tings down to de sto' an' yo' kin take yo' pick." "Do de ge'men ob yo' club all weah de reg'lation

" Lipod scole that bias ", seed , inquele book " mon s'ciety, sah. We ah de cream ob de col'd pop'lation."

That struck Jeremiah just where he lived, and he three that afternoon. Dov nov

Then he went down to the principal store in the place and bought a suit of blanket stuff, the giddiest to be found, squandering his hard-earned yelled. wealth to the amount of about five dollars, and getting stuck at that.

He looked like a cross between an Esquimau and big snow drift. a circus clown when he was rigged up, but he

thought he was just too elegant to exist. "Reckon dey ain' any ob dem nigs wha' can put scene and made it warm for Jeremiah. on de style I kin," he remarked complacently.

Then he sailed off to the top of a high hill where the high-toned coons had already assembled, and were getting ready to descend the dizzy slide.

The latter was in fine condition, nothing having been down that day, and anybody going down was warranted to feel as if he had been shot out of a cannon at the rate of a thousand miles a minute. There were lots of dusky Venuses about and Jeremiah got introductions to all of them.

"Hab yo' eber been down de slide, Miss Julia?" ne said to one saucy coon. "It am de perfection ob delight. Allow me to took yo' down once,"

"I shall be awful scared I know, Mistah Smiff." "No yo' won', dere am no danger 'tall, not half as much as dey is on a sled."

"Won' yo' took me, Mistah Smiff?"

down, I is."

"Certainly, I took yo' all," said Jeremiah. the Indian cutters after him.

"Steah a toboggun!" cried that moke. "Yas'r, I They all had some pleasant little attention to use to earn fo'ty dollahs a week in New Yo'k, payhim and when they got through with him he steerin' dem tings at de Polar Groun's. Co'se I looked as if he had been through a saw mill and knows how to steah dem."

"Am dat so?" "Co'se it am."

but if vo' know how dere am no use."

"No, sah, not a bit."

the new fangled affairs, as big as life.

had youngsters in their laps or arms, and Jeremiah down after that upset all its passengers could allay had no more than room enough to hang on be-poor Jeremiah's heartache. hind.

held the end of the toboggan.

The brother let her go, and then Jeremiah and and jump in, if it wasn't so cold. the wenches went flying down that hill at the diz- He turned up at the hotel in half an hour, and ziest kind of speed.

reckon."

CHAPTER XVII.

Away they went down the hill, Jeremiah John and those lady coons, as merry as could be.

"Look er dem go! Ain' dey jes' a-spinnin'!" "Specs dat coon know mo' 'bout runnin' dem tings dan I fought he did."

"Golly, ain' dey jus' hummin'!"

It would have been all right if Jeremiah had not undertaker. tried to show off.

the trouble in this case.

Jeremiah concluded to show those country niggers what a colored gentleman from the city was went off to make repairs, leaving Sam laughing at able to do when he set about it.

with frills on it, and open their eyes a bit.

So he undertook to take a short cut when he got 心多是。在秦帝是一种的公司也在在心,然 about half way down the hill.

sideways, struck against a snow bank, and upset der." In a jiffy. Inni derinde and in bayista, delmeral

quicker than scat. and a manual of the

but others went rolling down hill like footballs.

and all you could see of him was his heels.

end, yelling like a murdered pig. The fattest wench of all landed right across Jer

Aim. ma ofddinis sel jot sh-yatni omoo yatnaa Then such a caterwauling as there arose!

"Fo' de lan' sakes, my neck is broke!" yelled "Good mo'nin, Miss Julia," said Jeremiah, one leather-lunged damsel, three shades blacker politely. than charcoal. The chart of the state of the state of

800 !"

Lisbeth Tomkins, jis' yo' stop o' dat !"

grunting, and spectators laughing.

It was the funniest thing yet for everybody except Jeremiah.

sense?"

The gentle Julia got up, with wrath in her eye, Jeremiah wasn't going to be sat upon in that promised to be at the toboggan slide promptly at but before she could chastise Jeremiah for his im-manner, however. pudence, she slipped and went sliding down hill "Was de washwoman sick dat she couldn' brung like a female cyclone.

She was going that way, however, and she con- The fact of the matter was, Miss Julia was the tinued to go till she brought up at the bottom in a wash-lady herself, but she thought it was awful

The fathers, brothers, husbands and steady com- "Yas, de lady wha' does my washin' gen'rally

It was a very cold day for that pious coon, too, soft as melted butter. and he felt like hiring a boy to swear for him for the rest of the day.

"Wha' fo' yo' upset my da'ter in de snow?"

"Ain' yo' got no mo' sense, yo' big fool niggah! Dat lilly babe cotch um deff!"

" Fought yo' knowed how to steer de toboggan, All the same she would have been awful mad if yo' brack loater!"

"Ef my wife broke her leg I git de law on yo'. sho's yo' bo'n !"

"Less took it out ob de niggab now!"

Then those wrathful coons proceeded to take it de oder, we could tote dem close jes' as slick as out of that coon's skin, and the way they tanned 'iasses." him was lovely to see.

with prayer, they went at him so sudden.

First one big coon blacked one eye for him and "Took me, too, Mistah Smiff. I'se dyin' to go then gave him the mate to it, for the sake of sym-it am all right fo' me help yo'," retorted Jeremiah metry.

Then another swelled his jaw to twice its size "Hab yo' eber steered a tobo gan, sah?" asked and proceeded to chew his ear, but was inter-Jeremian's friend, as he came up, drawing one of rupted by another coor who wanted that feast himself.

cut up into slabs.

When those nigs had had all the fun they wanted out of Jeremiah, they let him go and proceeded to "Oh, den dat's a'right. I was gwine to show yo', rescue their wives, sisters, sweethearts, infants and daughters from their snowy graves.

Jeremiah went sadly away, feeling that life no Then Jeremiah seated several wenches on one of longer had any charms for him while the darkies continued their recreations.

It was pretty full, for some of the giddy dears Not even seeing the very first toboggan that went

He never even grunted, for he never smiled, but "Let her go, brudder," he cried to the coon who went on his lonely way back to the hotel feeling as handle of the basket and off they went once more. if he would like to take himself down to the river

Sam was the first person to see him. "Ain' dis some!" muttered Jeremiah. "Wall, I "Hallo, Jeremiah, where on earth have you

been?" "On de toboggan slide, boss," said Jeremiah,

not caring to be more explicit in his explanations. "Oh, you have, eh? I didn't know but that you had been blown up in a powder mill and hadn't her struggle to maintain her equilibrium, just as had time to pick up all the pieces yet."

This was adding insult to injury, but Jeremiah bore it all with meekness, and went into the house Jeremiah. with a face that would have been a fortune to an It yanked him off his feet, and he turned a

"Dat am allus de way," he remarked to himself. clothes. Pride always antedates an upset and that was "When a po' man meet wif misfo'tune, eberybody am down on him."

With this philosophical observation Jeremiah the recollection of the ridiculous appearance that column, and with no light weight, either. He was just going to show them some steering glum coon had presented on his return from the ith frills on it, and open their eyes a bit.

"If that moke indulges in any more imported at once. Quick as a flash the toboggan swung around hibit him in sections, or call him the boneless won-growled Jeremiah John, forgetting all his polite-

Those wenches were spilled out in the snow presentable before business began that night, and Julia. "Niggah yo' ownse'l! Sha'u't get up till I Sam rattled away as usual, striking the crowd get good and ready, so dere!" Some of them stopped where they first landed, pretty hard and just coaxing the dollars out of "G'off, I tol' you', drat yo' hombly picter!" their pockets, an english bereite pritte line in

better, and was standing out in front of the hotel in the choicest terms. Another went sliding down hill on his hind when he espied Miss Julia, the young lady of the "Yo' am no ge'man, yo' am jes' a common

emiah's spinal column and pinned him down as on top of her head, and she was picking her way how." effectually as if a spike had been driven through over the snowy walk as mincingly as though it "Yo'm jes' on'y fit to black boots an' run to de were paved with eggs, and there was a dollar fine do'." for every one she broke.

Whether it was that Miss Julia did not fancy dey flah me out ob de chu'ch ef dey know it." "Take yo' big foot off my jaw, Hannah John-being seen in the high-toned occupation of carrying home the week's washing, or whether she re-dere to steal sumfin'." "You'se scrushing my ribs togedder. Mary sented the spill in the snow that Jeremiah had

given her the day previous, we cannot state. Kids squalling, wenches screaming, Jeremiah Most likely it was the latter, but at all events she treated Jeremiah as cool as an ice-house.

more, lifting his hat.

"G'off my back, Julia Jones! Ain' yo' got no "Don' wanter hab nuffin' to say to yo' 'tall, yo' common niggah," snorted Miss Julia.

de close home she se'f, 'stead ob makin' yo' brung "Hol' on, hol' on! I isn't gwine dat way!" she dem?" he asked. "Spec it mus' be a awful job fo' a lady like yo' wha' don' do no wo'k."

nice in Jeremiah to think otherwise.

pany of those colored ladies now appeared on the fotches um home, but she am jes' drove so hahd dat I tuck pity on her," she replied, in a voice as

"Don' yo' fink yo'd bettah lemme help yo' car'y it?" said Jeremiah, stepping down. "All dat weight on yo' head spoil yo' bootul complexium."

"Oh, Mistah Smiff, yo' am too kin', 'deed yo' is, I couldn' fink ob axin' yo'."

Jeremiah had taken her at her word. He did not, but helping her set the basket down

said, in maple sugar accents: "I reckon ef yo' took hol ob one han'le an' me

"Law me, Mistah Jones, how funny dat would

He did not even have time to open the exercises look to see a gem'an like yo' totin' home de wasnin'," giggled Miss Julia.

"Reckon ef a lady like yo' kin do it, Miss Julia, gallantly.

That settled the business.

Miss Julia grabbed one end of the basket, Jeremiah caught on to the other and off they sailed.

A light snow had fallen during the night and hid the icy places on the walk.

It was not long before Jeremiah struck one of these man-traps, slipped, gave the basket a yank and slid for two yards. Miss Julia was nearly hauled off her feet but she

let go her grip and so escaped an upset. "Scuse me," said Jeremiah. "De walk am putty

slickery dis mo'nin." "He-he, Mistah Smiff, yo' mos' pulled me down on de walk," giggled Miss Julia. "Fought suah

yo was gwine to fall on yo' head. Wouldn't dat been funny, yah-ha!" Jeremiah did not think it would, but he said

nothing. Miss Julia annexed her number ten hand to the

They had gone about a hundred feet when an accident occurred. This time Miss Julia slipped.

She gyrated wildly in the air with one big foot, tried to balance herself on the other, and let out a screech that could have been heard all over town. She didn't lose her balance, however.

Jeremiah lost his, nevertheless. Miss Julia hung on solid to that basket during

though that could save her from falling. Perhaps it did, but it operated otherwise on

twister and flopped right on top of that basket of His feet collided with Miss Julia's fairy pedals,

and down she went like a decayed house. Of course, she couldn't fall on the snow. No, she had to land right on Jeremiah's spinal

The clothes-basket couldn't stand any such nonsense, and it dissolved partnership with itself

winter sports," he remarked, "we will have to ex- "Ugh! Get off my back, yo' clumsy niggah!"

Jeremiah managed to make himself half-way "Ain' niggah any mo'n yo' is!" snarled Miss

That started Miss Julia in a jiffy.

One of the kids went head first into the snow, The next morning that big coon felt a good deal She imped up and began to give it to that coon

elephantine proportions, coming along the road. | whitewash niggab?"

She had a hig clothes hasket full of clean linen "H'm! I kin affo'd to sen' my washin' out any-

"Ef I was yo', I let m'se'f out to de moosums." "Don' yo' talk ter me, yo' brack and tan coon!" "I'se shamed ter talk ter yo', so I is. Reckon

"Neber was in a chu'ch in yo' life, less yo' wen'

"G' out, yo' big mouf wench. Yo' mos' broke my back."

"Jes' glad ob it. Wish 'twar yo' neck, niggah." There stood those two angry mokes, the ruined "Good mo'nin', Miss Julia," said Jeremiah once clothes basket between them, snarling and jawing lat one another like a couple of cats.

had sat on Jeremiah's back and it made him mad. tion and it made him mad.

close basket. Yo'kin take it to de lady yo'se'f. off I kin do it wifout all yo' fellahs laffin at me," Hope she make yo' do de washin' ober again fo' he remarked, as he limped away. nuffin'. Good-mor'nin' washwoman."

"Don' yo' dar wish me good-mo'nin', yo' tramp into a roar of merriment. niggah. I tell yo' boss to look out fo' yo', an' see yo' don' steal him waggin'."

"Huh! Nobody steal yo', I reckon. Yo'm too ugly fo' dat."

yo', an' yo' get de worsest lickin' yo' eber had. See his train with him, and lighted upon another one if yo' don'."

Jeremiah only guffawed and started to return to week with good business.

That made twice that that fat African woman He had a full house to witness his little exhibi-

"Bet yo' jes' done dat a puppus. Dere's yo' ol' "Guess if I wanter sit down in de snow to cool

That was too much, and the whole gang broke

"De nex' time I goes out ob my way to be p'lite to dat wench, I reckon she foun' it out," the poor moke remarked.

Then he went away and did not show himself all

"Yo' jes' wait till I get home. I tol' my fader on Sam left that town the next morning, taking all

"Good ebenin', boss," said that pious coon, "I won't be back bery early."

"Where are you going?" inquired Sam, not a little astonished.

"Gwine ter meetin', boss."

"Did Peter tell you you might?"

"No, sah." " Did I?"

"No, sah, but I'se gwine, all de same. Get up!" The driver snapped his whip, the horses started off at a gallop, and away went the coons rejuic-

"That nig is getting pretty big for his shoes," five or six miles off, where he finished out the muttered lam, as the sleigh disappeared around a turn in in he road. "He needs toning down a



He was just going to show them some steering with frills on it, and open their eyes a bit. So he undertook to take a short cut when he got about half way down the hill. Quick as a flash the toboggan swung around sideways, struck against a snow bank, and upset in a jiffy.

Tilength venues he done ven to way she could with her busted basket.

He forgot the ice beneath the snow, however. It was waiting for him, though, and it soon got which suited all hands, in its fine work.

that coon's big feet, tripped them up and sent him with half of the colored brothers and sisters in it. able.

busted or not, but he did know that somebody was the edge of the town. laughing at him.

feet, and performed the slide act with elegance and concluded to make one of the party. dexterity.

this morning?"

slide!"

"Fo' de lan' sakes, how fader kin skate!"

Jeremiah picked himself up, and beheld on one side Miss Julia and two or three coons, on the other Sam, Peter, Solomon and two or three of the Plazza when the sleigh load of coons drove up, and "Tol' yo' what, bredren, dere am a great time minstrels.

he resolved to keep the boys with him as long as lishment before long." there was any money in that line, an arrangement Jeremiah arrived at the church just as the con-

This last town was a pretty lively place, and it make himself pretty numerous as usual. A fine glassy bit of ice under the snow caught wasn't long before Jeremiah became acquainted

prayer meeting in the colored church, and, as meeting. Jeremiah did not know whether his back was usual, it was about two or three miles away on

Jeremiah found out that there was a sleigh full

He did not consider it necessary to acquaint de snow plow ob de gospul. "Yah-ha! Serbe yo' right, yo' big fool niggah!" Sam with his intentions having got into an inde- "Gadder all de chillen to yer bosom, Lawd, an' "Hallo, Jeremiah John! Been getting full again pendent state of mind, and caring nothing for the if dev gets huffy jes' box deir yers an' tol' 'em ter boss' likes or dislikes.

"Go it, old Woollyhead, you're immense on the In fact, he was so careless about it that he made "Brudders and sistahs, am yo' hants white as no disgnise whatever about the affair, but openly de snow, or am dey brack like de mud ob de streets? avowed his intention of going to the meeting Yo' bettah fin' out pretty sudden or de ol' debbil whether it put Sam out or not.

More than that, Sam was standing on the hotel stuff you was made ob. Jeromiah got in and took his seat.

the hotel, leaving Miss Julia to get along the best. The minstrel snap seemed to pay first-rate and bit. If I don't look out, he'll own the whole estab-

gregation was assembling and he proceeded to

The minister himself could not have put on more lugs than Jeremiah did, and, in fact, he did not put skating on his back in the prettiest style imagin- On the second night of Sam's stay, there was a on half as many, for that big coon just bossed the

> As soon as the choir had done singing up jumped Jeremiah and shouted out in his big voice:

"Oh, Lawd, bress all dese chillen ob light an' He cleaned the snow off the walk for about ten of coons going over in the early evening, and he lies all around on de groun' to-night, an' if dey don' wanter come inter de fol', jes shubble 'em in wif

keep quiet. Dat's de way to do wif dem coons.

come snoopin' 'round, an' he tell putty quick what

comin' fo' dem wha' blebe on de Lawd, an' fo' dem

wha' don', dere's gwine ter be deawi'les' fuss yo' tened under foot, but Jeremiah had no eyes for the nuther you nor Sam Smart, whoever he is, nor car'y off de snow an' dump 'em in de riber.

hymn, singin' all de wusses, an' jes' put yo' haht in dese days!" 'em fo' de Lawd likes singin' an' de ol' debbil don', Not caring for what Sam said did not seem to wrong road!" gasped Jeremiah. "'Specs I mus' not fo' a cent.

"Oh gadder up de chillen in de gospel kyart,

Hab de lub ob de Lawd in yo' heart, Ho, glory, glory. I's gwine fo' to shout, I'se gwine fo' to sing,

Ho, glory, glory. Kase I'se got on de robe an' de weddin' ring, Hi, glory, glory.

Don' 70' pay no 'tention to Satan's chahms, Oh, glory, glory.

But jump into de eberlastin' ahms, Oh, glory, glory.

De riber am wide, but I'se gwine to cross, Hi, glory, glory. Hurry up brudders or yo'll be los', Hi, glory, glory."

he chorus, and nearly raising the roof.

runners.

midst of a fervent exhortation when the driver of and madder.

the sleigh sang out: folks to come to de Lawd, but 'f yo' don' come to slight fall, either.

dis sleigh yo' get lef', I tol' yo'."

that meeting-house pretty sudden.

all the seats being occupied. Away they went, and at the end of the first half cidedly disagreeable.

mile struck a long hill.

a lively rate.

disappeared down the hill.

Three miles from home, and no way to get there his own little joke.

but walk! What an outlook!

CHAPTER XVIII.

THREE miles from home, the sleigh gone on Without him, and two feet of snow on the ground.

That was the predicament of Jeremiah John Joseph.

He reached the top of the hill, after he had down, licketty clip.

"Hi, hol' on', stop a minnit! One ob yo' passengahs am lef' behin'."

Either the driver could not or would not hear him, for the sleigh never stopped.

The laughing coons, the jingling sleigh bells, the itself did not look quite right. Shapping of the whip-all these could be heard,

but not poor Jeremiah's shouts. "Hi-hi! hol' on; wait fo' dis col'd man!" he shouted again, legging it after the sleigh.

He had taken but a few steps when he fell over blacky? It's time to shut up." a rut or something, and went down as solid as a

nod of bricks. "Whoa! Dat ain' de way to cotch up to 'um," ne grunted, plowing the snow with his flat nose.

"Hol' on, dere; take dis yer passenger abo'd Marse Sam by dis time?" fore yo' go any furder."

The sleigh went a good deal further and consid erably more so, and yet it did not stop.

The jingling bells, the laughter of the coons, the shapping of the whip, the clump, clump of the hag's feet on the snow, and the creaking of the Bleigh grew fainter and fainter, and at last grew too indistinct to hear at all.

Jeremiah John had picked himself up after his second fall and once more started after that run-

away vehicle. att la eron iseb poor a root a

He took another tumble after going a few yards, yo'll say yo' neber seed me nudder." and still another after that, but though he was so good at tumbling he could not catch on, and the how?" Sleigh went ahead without him. al tow endoo add to

"Clar' to gracious! don' 'pear as ef I could aber de ole debbil got a grutch agin me an' am tryin' pigger." his bestest fo' to get hol' ob me, but I cheat um yit "Done steal no chickens 'tall!" protested Jere-anything you want at low tide prices.

eber see. De ol' debbil am jus' gwine ter come wif beauties of nature, with a three mile walk before Solomon nor any of those fellows." him kyarts an' dribers an' jis' tote 'em off like dey him, and he could not see anything romantic or "P'raps dis ain' de Fif Abenco Hotel ob Harkpicturesque about all this.

"Dat riber ain' like de ribers yo' eber see, bred- "Reckon it am all kase I wen' off spite ob what conviction. ren. It am full ob flah an' smoke, an' dem wha'de boss say, but I don' car' ef it am, if I kin on'y "No, sir, it ain't; it's the Windsor Hotel'of Tompgets frowed into it don' hab no pienic, I tol' yo'. fin' a wagon gwine to town. Don' car' fo' de boss, kins' Mills. The Corners is about five miles to the "Les' sing for our improbement de sebenty-fif anyhow! He'm got altogedder too much to say, west. Ain't you been taking a little sutbin?"

> mend the matter any, and Jeremiah trudged along, got los' in de storm. Fin I stay yer to-night?" into a very unhappy frame of mind.

He reached the bottom of the hill without falling forward. "Ye can't go over to the Corners tomore than half a dozen times more, and then set night, I don't suppose."

and sound, and if the coons missed him they did getting spunky. "Wha' yo' cha'ge?" not apparently think it was worth while to come "Twenty dollars," said the landlord, thinking to back after him.

"Dat am de way wif some folks, de mo' yo' Dat's all right. I'll take a room, an' yo' kin put pray an' laboh wif dem, de less dey car' fo' yo'. a flah in it. Am dere a baff room convenient?" Dey ain' one ob dose coons dat I didn' pray fo', an' The landlord grinned, and then replied, as a try to bring to de frone, an' now look at 'em! Dev clincher: jes' done go off an' lef' me fo' to hoof it back to de "Fellers coming without baggage are always rehotel all by my lones!

Singing was Jeremiah's strong point, and he just sech ting! Dey jes' car' fo' demselves, an' dat am coon, but the latter replied: whooped her up lively, making all hands join in all. Ef it war twenty mile, dey wouldn' car'. Jes' "Well, sah, ef yo'll sen' de po'tah to de station hope de ole debbil cotch um all, ev'ry one, spite ob he'll fin' my trunks. Yo' don' 'specs I war gwine

It whistled and whizzed all around him, sneaked Jeremiah knew what it was to be left, and in between his shirt and his skin, blew up his had had quite enough of it, and so he dusted out of sleeves, sifted down into the tops of his shoes, and seemed trying to hunt out every part of his body. "I nebah sleep in a col' room in de wintah."

to sit in the hind end on the floor in a lot of straw, piled itself upon his shoulders, it ran down the room in the house, with a fire in it, and all the back of his neck, and, in short, made itself de-luxuries of the season.

nto a solid mass in the middle of the road.

They gave a jump and a snort. Jeremiah's feet "Drat de snow! Why couldn' it wait till I got Sam Smart did a good business that night, and Struck the tail board of the sleigh with a bump, to de hotel, I wondah? Might fink de ole debbil when they turned in he and Pete had their chat as Ont it came, and at the next moment that coon was sen' it jes' to bodder me, but I reckon dey don' hab usual. setting in the middle of the road while the sleigh bery much snow down whar he lib, h'm! guess dey don'," and Jeremiah laughed explosively at marked Peter.

> Tramp, tramp, tramp over the snow and through the snow and sometimes in the snow, when he fell ever he wants to give it to you, I suppose?" down, went that poor coon, all white except the "No; I'll discharge him in the morning when end of his nose, where the snow could not find a we leave." lodging, and all the while laying down the law to In the morning, however, there was no Jerethose negligent nigs who had brought all this dis- miah to be seen, and Solomon reported that his comfort upon him.

scrambled to his feet when he was thrown off the eling more than the required distance, bring up, better than that lazy coon." sleigh, just in time to see that vehicle going all snowy and half frozen, at a tavern in another "Where are you off to now?" asked the landllord, as Sam settled his bill.

"Dere am de hotel at las'," he remarked, as he "To Tompkins' Mills. They tell me it's a lively stepped upon the piazza, shook the snow from him place." as much as possible and walked in.

There was a bar at one side of the room, and he "Oh, well," I don't mind that," said Sam, and ed in the office of his hotel.

"Well," said the clerk, "what do you want, They arrived in about an hour, and Sam, driv-

regognize a familiar face. "What show's that?"

"Who's he?"

"Who's him?" Why, Marse Sam Sma't, ob co'se, "The funniest show ever on the road, and the Who vo' 'spect?"

ebony."

Jeremiah, gerting anxious.

"H'm, then mebbe you're the feller what's been "Come and see us, all hands, and remember

et l hab to jine de Unumverslis' chu'ch." miah. "I'se a membah ob de chu'ch, sah!" The stars twinkled overhead and the snow glis | "Well, you hain't been here no three days

nis' Co'nahs, eider," said the coon, with an air of

"Fo' de lan' sakes, ef I hain't done took de

grumbling and growling and working himself up "Wall, we don't take niggers, but you can sleep into a very unhappy frame of mind." in the barn if you like," said the landlord, coming

off on the level with somewhat better success. "Reckon ef I kin pay fo' a room I'se got as The sleigh had long since passed out of sight much right to one as de nex' man," said Jeremiah,

get even with the coon.

quired to pay in advance."

"Talk ob de gratitood ob man! Dere ain' no All hands expected that this would stagger the

He got tired after a while, and gave somebody pra'rs an' preachin'. Serbe 'em right if he do." to tote 'em on my back, does yo'? P'raps yo' else a show, the meeting going along on greased But even consigning those careless coons to donno who I is. Wall, sah, I is de advance agint everlasting punishment could not bring the sleigh ob Sam Smaht's Minstrel Comp'ny, one ob de big-It was getting late, and Jeremiah was in the back, and Jeremiah tramped on, getting madder ges' concerns in de country. De boss be heah in de nd madder.

To add to his enjoyment, the snow began to fall am done, yo' undahstan'?"

mo'nin'. We neber pay any bills till de services am done, yo' undahstan'?"

"Dat's a' right, brudder Smiff. Yo' kin call when he had walked about a mile, and it was no "Well, I guess it's all right," said the host. "Is

Number Six empty, Dick?" "I believe it is."

"Then let him have it."

"An' a flan, yo' undahstan'," put in Jeremiah.

The sleigh was already full, and Jeremiah had It formed a nice little thatch on top of his hat, it Everybody laughed, and Jeremiah got the best

"Reckon dere'll be trouble in de mo'nin', ef I He had not walked a quarter of a mile before he kean't get wo'd to de boss," muttered Jeremiah, as The horses took their time in going up, and when looked like an animated snow image, and only the he sat in his room toasting his shins; "but I don' they were nearly up the driver started them on at warmth of his wrath prevented him from freezing cah fo' dat. I wuz boun' ter sleep somewhar tonight, no mattah what I had to say."

"That coon is getting fresher every day," re-"He was pretty breezy this evening."

"And you're going to stand his nonsense when-

father had not turned up all night. Of course it would not have been in the nature "Guess he must have thought I was going to

of things for that coon to go straight home with- fire him out," remarked Sam, "and that's why he out further mishap, and consequently he must did not come back. Well, we can have one of the needs get off upon the wrong road, and after trav-boys black up and sit on the wagon. He'll do

"Yes, lively for drinking," chuckled the land-There were strange faces all about, and the place lord. "Temperance folks never could get a hold in that town."

did not remember that such an arrangement exist- in half an hour he and his whole party started off for the Mills.

ling up to the chief hotel, stood up in his seat, "Am de show ober?" asked Jeremiah, trying to blew a blast upon his trumpet, and cried out:

"Oh, yes, bet your boots, don't make any mistake, this is the great and only Sam Smart and his "Marse Sam's show, ob co'se. Don' yo' know traveling menagerie, brass band, minstrel troupe and perambulating emporium combined. Walk up and I'll tell you all about it,

biggest traveling warehouse in existence. You get "They ain't no such pusson stopping here, lots of fun for nothing, and the best goods in the market for next to it. Don't make any mistake, "Did dey go arter de show was ober?" asked but patronize our establishment and you'll never

"They never was any show here at all, coon." | "Umbrellas with burglar alarm attachments, "Wha' dat? No Sam Smart, no Petey Pocket, rubber bustles warranted not to explode when you no Solomon? G'way, sah, yo'm foolin'. Mebby sit on them, revolvers that don't go off when they're not loaded, watches guaranteed to go without be-"No, I never did. Where'd you dome from, any- ing carried and a full line of useful and fancy arti-, cles will be found in our stock, besides the great "Why, Lor' sakes, I'se been yer fo' free days!" | free show which must be seen to be appreciated.

go to meetin' wifout suffin' happenin'. I jes' b'lebe stealing our chickens? We 'spected it was a that our show, the best on the road, costs you nothing, and that at our grand sale you can buy

> "A certain old party of Lynn, Sat down on the point of a pin,

He caught onto the racket. When the pin pierced his jacket, And he swore he'd not do so agin."

"That's the kind of pins we sell. I've got a hundred gross of them; but as for needles, I'm only sew-sew on 'em; that's a needless joke, you may say, and I think it's kind o' mazy myself. Thought you mightn't have heard it.

> "A gentleman 'way out Afraca, A very unprincipled trafficker, Used to buy up dead niggers, And call 'em wax figgers, And so got the ill will of Africa.

"That isn't me, gents, I don't sell my fellow men, black, white or yellow, dead or alive. I'm a square ed-

"Bress my haht, ef dere isn' fader toned again.

"Hallo, here's the runaway coon at last." day aftah de sto'm?"

"Jeremiah!" gasped Sam.

"Yas'r, dis am me. Los' my way in de snow meeting, but the coons had other ideas of how to las' night, an' had tu come to dis yer place."

"Is this the fellow you call my agent?" asked Sam, turning to the landlord.

"Yes, and his bill amounts to twenty-five dol-

"What! for staying one night?"

up night the show was, if anything, better than usual for they all wished to appear at their best.

Jeremiah had made friends with two or three "Good-mo'nin, boss, how do, Marse Petey, stop nigs in the house, and that evening, after the sale, yo' laffin', Solomon, my 'gards, ge'men all. Fine he and they and two or three more coons adjourned to the kitchen to enjoy themselves.

Jeremiah would have liked to start a prayer

enjoy themselves.

They brewed a big bowl of steaming hot spiced rum punch, and invited Jeremiah to indulge. "I'se a membah ob de church, I kean't," pro-

tested that pious nig.

"Dat am all right, we'm all membahs our own-"Well, if he d been white I wouldn't ha-charg- se'fs, an' de dekius an' de passon dey all drinks. Jes' a lilly bit won' hurt yo'. Take it to keep de



"Nothing the mattah with you, eh?" "No, sah, nuffin"." Just then somebody held a looking-glass in front of that "Fo' de lan' sakes! I'se gwine ter die, shuah!" he yelled, jumping back, his complacent coon. wool standing up like the tail feathers of a mad gobbler.

Yours truly, call again,"

"Oh, yes, we were expecting you, though not so soon. Your advance agent stopped here last night, Jeremiah, and then Sam said; and hasn't got up yet, I don't think."

"My what?" said Sam, looking at Peter. "Your agent, colored man, quite a dandy, all gold lace and velvet, quite a swell, you know. Tra-la-la." Gave him the best room in the house. Said you could afford it."

"Oh, he did, eh? Well, I haven't any agent." were coming here? He must be your agent."

and I'm not going to have. I'm my own agent, I work up a town after I get to it, and don't need fellows are making pigs of themselves. The fellow anybody to go ahead."

"Didn't you stop at Harkness' Corners last drinkers."

night?"

saw us there and has been imposing on you. If he room and said: "If you boys want to drink, all miah, or there is no telling what might have haphas not left the house yet you had better collar right, but if any of you is unfit to go on with his pened. him."

"Why, there he is now," cried the clerk. "Hallo, there is Jeremiah as sure as I live!" ex- They knew that Sam would do as he said, and yer in de kitchen." claimed Peter.

man and that's why I get 'round so lively. If you "I don't think you were very white," said Sam, col' out. It am a bery blust'rin' night, an' yo' won' come to see me once you'll come again, and I'm laughing at the idea of that gorgeous coon living hab no flah in yo' room to-night." not ashamed to meet anybody I ever traded with. in all this style at his expense. "I'll pay you reg- "Kean't do it, sah, I'se a membah ob de church, ular rates and that's all. It's lucky for you I came I tol' yo'." Sam and Peter then went into the hotel and here. He didn't know I was coming, and if I The others were all enjoying the fragrant punch, introduced themselves, the clerk saying pleas-hadn't be would have skipped out and left you to however, and after much persuasion Jeremiah resing for your sugar."

Sam and the rest laughed at the lugs assumed by

"You can give him another room after this, and

and the host was glad that they did, for his bar however, and tripping up his heels. "Then how did he know you all, and that you was patronized all day long by the minstrel boys and the friends they made in town.

"But I tell you I have none, I never did have, "or you won't have any show to-night. Those mebbe de pain go 'way." over at the Corners said this was a bad town for last the coons had to stretch him out on the bench

"Yes, and for two nights before that. Somebody called all of the minstrel fellows into a private of the coons got in the same condition as Jerepart of the performance to-night I'll discharge the "We gotter git dis yer coon to bed," said Brud-

they spent the afternoon in sobering up, so that at "P'r'aps we kin wake him up, Aber"

marked:

"Wall, I don' min' takin' jes' a lilly bit ob dat stuff, brudder Abram, jes' to see how it tas'e."

The little bit became a good bit, however, be-I'll take his, if you fumigate it, put in two beds fore Jeremiah got through, for the coons kept and have a fire. We shall be here for three nights. plying him with the insidious punch, and the more he drank the more he wanted.

He sang, he laughed, he told stories, he even So Sam and his party remained at the Windsor, tried to dance, the punch getting the better of him,

"Fo'got I had rhenmatiz," he remarked, as he got up with some difficulty and sat down on a "You had better look out," said Peter to Sam, bench. "Gimme some mo' ob dat dreffle stuff an'

> He took a good deal more of the stuff, and at to recuperate.

"I'll fix 'em," gaid Sam, and after dinner he Luckily the punch was exhausted before the rest

whole crowd," We kean't leabe him down

pedients for waking up a man overcome by too out any warning. much punch. bend wood mad built sain unidivisors

They pounded on the soles of his feet, they do?" he said to Sam. burned red pepper under his nose, poured cold The latter scented another job and said: water down the spine of his back, tickled his ribs "You look pretty bad, I must say. Better go to I fink ob um."

They were all in vain, for Jeremiah didn't even cure, and he's bound to do one or the other."

marked Abram, "an' he amn't no small load nud- "It is indeed. What have you been doing to get the monaton in anion bun teat der."

went to bed, heard the coons talking and grunting las' night." as they carried that unconscious coon up the stairs "Hot rum!" said Sam, greatly horrified. "The to his apartment on the top floor.

did."

"Sakes alive, de man am jes' pa'lyzed, an' as heaby as lead."

agin."

marked:

"That's Jeremiah they're carrying up-stairs. Guess he's been celebrating."

"Yes, the mokes had a big bowl of punch carried into the kitchen, and I don't believe they away so quick that she nearly fell down-stairs. who blocked the entrance, play the bugle again, stopped till they finished it." stopped till they finished it."

"I'll finish him," muttered Sam. "Come with

me and see the fun."

The partners went down-stairs, the place being still open.

Sam made a few inquiries, and then secured a Pretty soon up came a pompous-looking indi"Well, Samuel," said Peter, when the two boys process and some marking Pretty soon up came a pompous-looking indipail of whitewash, a brush and some marking

They found Jeremiah lying propped up on his wise look, who sat down on the bed and said:

bed fast asleep and snoring.

transformation in that nig's appearance.

With the whitewash and a big brush they painted his face as white as the snow outside.

Then with the marking ink they touched up his big lips, making them look bigger, if anything, like a leaf. and put great black circles around his eyes.

Then they left him to go on with his nap. Jeremiah slept late the next morning, being awakened at last by a tremendous pounding on his door.

"Wha' dat?"

right away."

Jeremiah tumbled off the bed, never stopped to look in the glass or anything, but hurried downstairs to the office.

There he found Sam, Pe'er, the minstrel boys, but Jeremiah got away with three doses of them in the clerk, the boss, and half a dozen boarders.

"For Heaven's sake, what a sick coon!" "Goodness! he must feel awful to look as pale how he felt.

as that!" "Going to die, sure!"

"What's the matter, Jeremiah?" said Sam, with great seriousness. "Don't you feel well this morning?"

"Nuffin' de mattah wif me, boss," said the coon, looking around upon that giggling gang in astonishment.

really?" "No, sah. I neber was bettah. What you all doctah know suffin', aftah all." laffin' at?"

"Feel all right, eh?"

"Ob co'se."

"Nothing the mattah with you, eh?"

of that complacent coon.

"Fo' de lan' sakes! I'se gwine ter die, shuah!" and said solemnly: he yelled, jumping back, his wool standing up like the tail feathers of a mad gobbler. to also it, and it il say short the coasts of

THE sight of his white face, black lips and black- man." miah.

"Fo' goodness sakes, suffin' am de mattah wif soap and water. me, sure 'nuff," he gasped as he sprang back.

"Yes, you're awful pale." "Yes, you're awful pale."
"Look ready to die any minute."

"Think you'd feel terrible." "Gorramighty, mus' hab eat suffin' wha' didn' Jeremian was washing. agree wif me. Wondah if it was dat punch? Specs "Reckon I ain' so bad, aftah all, doctah," said fruit.

anoder drap o' liquor, I neber will." shining on the snow and got bleached out."

struck in pretty deep."

fatal."

that nigger will need it pretty sudden." wits. Nothing but bread rolled up into balls! out of his wits.

"Fo' de Lawd's sakes, boss, wha' 'm I gwine to

and did all sorts of other things. bed and I'll send for a doctor. It's either kill or

wink. dies sunisbode diseast too to the say "Lor' me! am it so desprit as dat?" gasped "Guess we gotter car'y him up aftah all," re- Jeremiah, the kink all taken out of his wool.

into such a state?"

Sam and Peter, smoking and chatting before they "Nuffin', boss, 'cept takin' a lilly bit ob hot rum Sam had swiped the clothes, and Peter had fast-

very worst thing in the world you could have sputtered Jeremiah. "A' right, I stays yer den." "Neber did see a niggah get so drunk afo', neber taken! By George! you are in a bad way indeed. With that he got into bed, rolled himself into the Better go to bed at once."

miah, dolefully.

"Breakfast! You may be glad that you ain't that poor coon had to work with a vengeance. "Reckon he kean't blow de trumpet fo' one while dead already without thinking about breakfast. He had to harness up, sit on the wagon and blow

met coming out, out of her senses.

vidual with a red head, green spectacles and very were alone that night, "we caught 'em pretty well,

"H'm! very bad case of humbugculosis-very have variety." Then they got to work and made a wonderful bad indeed. Let me see your tongue."

Out came that coon's tongue like a snake out of we won't draw." its hole. "H'm! ah, yes! very bad! You won't live half

an hour unless--" "'Less what, doctah?" asked Jeremiah, shaking

"Unless you live longer. Shut your eyes. I must make an outward application of my celebrated

remedies. That is the only course left." Jeremiah shut his eyes and felt the doctor painting his face here and there with some cooling gets a cane."

"Get up; de boss wanter see yo' in de office fluid.
"That will do," he presently said. "Now take tell you why." ten of these pills every fifteen minutes and send

> probably wish you were. Good-morning." The pills the doctor left were as big as marbles,

> half an hour.

"Bettah, boss. How I look now?"

For answer Sam held a looking-glass in front of youth thus addressed the mob:

cine." There was a big red spot on each cheek, another

on his forehead and one on his chin, making him you. "Why, you're as pale as a ghost. Ain't you sick, look like a circus clown.

"You think so, eh?" said Peter. "Why, don't

than the paleness? That's an awful bad sign." "Am dat so, Marse Petey?" "Indeed it is, and if you turn blue you're a gone

"No, sah, nuffin'."

Indeed it is, and if you turn blue you're a coon."

Just then somebody held a looking-glass in front coon."

CHAPTER XIX, pow'ful weak jes' dis minnit."

ringed eyes in the glass was too much for Jere- Nearly scared to death, Jeremiah arose, went to and the crowd yelled till it got tired.

Red, white and black mingled in the wash-basin, fullest extent.

and when Jeremiah looked in the glass he was all Three or four young coons roosted on the stoveright.

"Guess you've been out when the sun was been wiping his face and then of the suds in the the fun as well as any one else.

"Oh, he's a dead nigger for sure. It's always "H'm! reckon I'se been made a big fool ob, all the semi-circle. de time! Dem fellahs jes' done paint my face all Solomon played the bones and Jeremiah knocked

dah wha' dem pills was I'se been tooken."

Thereupon those coons tried all the known ex- He thought he was going to die sure pop, with- You never saw such a mad nig as Jeremiah at

that moment.

"Dreffle funny, ain't it, to make a fellah tink he'm goin' ter die an' feed him on bread pills! I jes' go down-stairs an' tell dat doctah fellah wha"

There was a difficulty in the way of the execu-

tion of this little plan, however. When Jeremiah came to look for his outer gar-

ments to put ou, he could not find them. More than that, the door was locked on the out-

ened the door. "H'm! reckon dey do dat jes' ter keep me yer,

blankets, and went off to sleep as happy as a clam. "But I ain' had no breakfas', boss," said Jere- Sam did not happen to want him till after noon, and so let him sleep, but when he did get to work

Then the coons passed on up-stairs, and Sam re- Go to bed at once, and I'll send out for a doctor." the bugle continuously for three hours, put the That frightened coon went off up-stairs to his horses away, wash the wagon, scrub the hall, clean room, nearly scaring the chambermaid, whom he and fill lamps, play the horn for another hour, scatter hand-bills all over town, stand at the door "Fo' massy sakes, jes' look at dat coon!" she and shout to attract the crowds, sass the coons "Deah me! I feel dreffle bad," remarked Jere- horn once more and then pack everything away, miah, as he undressed and tumbled into bed. put out the lights, lock the hall, feed the horses "Donno as I eber get ober it. Reckon de boss and black Sam's boots, so that at the end he conmight's well sen' fo' a cla'gyman 'long ob de doc-cluded that his nap had cost a good deal more than

but this town is very rapid, and the people must

"Yes, they want something new every day, or

"Well, you ought to be able to find it for 'em."

"I think I've got it, Petey, my boy." "Then give it to me."

"We'll try a cake walk, advertise it big and get a crowd."

"A genuine cake walk?"

"Oh, yes, but we'll manage that Jeremiah gets the cake. "Why, it's the lady that takes that, and the man

"We'll change it for this occasion only, and I'll

Then Sam whispered something in Peter's ear,

for me in an hour. If you ain't dead you will and Peter made a remark in Sam's auricular organ, and then they both laughed. "That'll be bang up."

"Won't it, though !"

The next day Sam marshalled his forces, drove Then up came Sam and Peter and asked him all around town with a grand flourish of trumpets. and then, stopping in front of the Windsor Hotel, where a big crowd had collected, that enterprising

"Fellow aristocrats! This is me, the celebrated "Fo' de lan' sakes! Am dat de 'fect ob de med'- Sam Smart. You've seen me before, but you don't know all I can do. If you think I do the same things night after night, you're as much mistaken as though you'd lost your watch, as I shall show

"Come to-night and see our great and only "De paleness am goin' away, boss. Reckon dat show, new features, new jokes, new everything, an entire change of bill from last night, the only you know that those red spots are more alarming going in, though you have to pay to get out. old thing being that we don't charge anything for

"As an extra inducement to the public we have arranged to have an old-fashioned cake walk and distribution of prizes, to take place immediately lafter the sale, the three leading couples to receive Just then the doctor entered, looked at Jeremiah, handsome and expensive presents. Don't miss it.

"Be on hand, all you niggers, and show the white "Young man, you're a gone coon. Go wash your trash what you can do. A splendid cake, a beautiful fan, a cane, a pair of seventeen button gloves, "Don' b'lebe I'se able to get up, doctah. I feel a bouquet and a new bonnet given to the three best couples, so be on hand and let everybody try "Go wash your face this minute, or you're a dead to take the cake."

Then the full brass band tooted itself hoarse,

the wash-stand, and began scrubbing his face with It was a big thing for Sam, the notice of the cake walk, for the hall was just stuffed to its

pipe, the fire having gone out, the windows were Sam, Peter and the doctor had disappeared while full of 'em, and if there had been any chandeliers they would probably have had their crop of dusky

it was, sure 'nuff. I declar' fo' it, I neber tech the coon, and then he looked up. He caught sight of the towel with which he had plenty of white people, too, for they wanted to see

basin. When the curtain went up, there were all the Never saw a feller look so pale. It must have Then he took one great, big, huge, immense, boys in black, except Sam, who sat in the middle, gigantic tumble. and Peter, who occupied the tambourine end of

"Better order an extra size box right away, for sawts ob colors, an' I fink I'se gwine to die. Won-the nonsense out of the big drum, just back of Sam.

All this nearly frightened poor Jeremiah nearly He broke one open, smelled and then tasted it. "Good-evening, Peter. What are you doing into balls! these days? been borton rein bor assentant wall "Oh, I'm doing a big business."

"You don't say?" "Oh, yes, away up."

"What is it?" " I'm a doctor."

enough."

"I don't, eh. You ought to see the business I

"Let me ask you a few questions."
"Ask ahead."

window and broke his neck?"

"Cure a man with a broken neck?"

their tricks.

Then Sam got up, winked at as many pretty girls as everything else that Sam took hold of. as he could see and said:

do with it.

C for consternation and D for degradation, with E "Buy a pair of our fine silk stockings, can be cut "What would you do to a man who fell out of a we have I with imagination, I and jubilation, K market, and going at nothing at all. with its kisseration, L with lamentation, M goes in "Catch on to the moth and insect destroyer. for moderation, N can teach us numeration, while There are no flies on that. Sells like hot sausages O explains the operation to P of punctuation, while at Coney Island. Sure death to roaches, moths

Moses and the cat Maria, and put them through sung half a dozen more verses of the same sort, and then the sale began, and went along as lively

"Step up, ladies and gentlemen, and buy our "The alphabet don't seem to amount to much, patent reversible ice cream freezer, can be used "What? You a doctor? Why, you don't know being only A B C, bu! I'll show you what we can as a churner, a cradle, an eight day stove or a horse block. Never gets out of repair, and ready at a "There is A for animation, B for botheration, moment's notice.

for elevation, F and fascination, G for gravitation up into handkerchiefs, made into neckties, or used and H for hallucination, and that's a big one, but for crazy quilts. The handiest thing on the



Jeremiah looked as proud as a peacock, as he lugged that big cake on one arm and the big wench on the other, his face being wreathed with smiles, while his collar even seemed to brace up and grow three inches higher.

"Certainly."

"Why, what would you give him?"

"Something to take away his coughin'?"

"Well, suppose a man swallowed a bottle of ink cuse me Y'll I Z after the rest." by mistake?"

"Oh, I'd fix him."

"In what way?"

" By absorption, of course." "How so?"

"Feed him on blotting pads till the ink was all "Do you want to know how to get rich without work? soaked up." "What is rash?"

"Standing on your head in front of an approaching locomotive."

"How do you get water on the brain?" "Going out in the rain bareheaded."

"What's good for a deep cut?"

"Razor in the hands of a mad nigger." "Where is the best place to have corns?"

"On some other fellow's feet?" "I guess you'll pass, my friend." "Yes, and enchre you, too."

" Let her go for the overture." After the band had played there were more Why wine is considered more high-toned than gin? jokes, Peter played the banjo, Solomon did a song Well. I'll take a day off and find out." and dance with the mule, all hands sang some rat-

tling choruses, and Peter introduced the dog

R in rotation tells 8 its sensations, and drags Tand other insects which shall be nameless. Ten from temptation, cures U of ulceration by means cents a box and an air gun free. Nobody is too fly

"You've left out Q," yelled a fellow in the "Walk right up and invest ten cents in a box of crowd.

and if you can make any use of it you can have it |complexion, strengthening the muscles and giving Now, just to keep you in humor, I'll warble:

Or why giddy old girls always simper and amirk? Why a dude and a ninny are one and the same? Why a western bonanza Fing can't write his name? Do you want to know why the sun sets in the west? Or why high-priced goods are always the best? How to hammer old brass into solid gold rings? Would you like to know this and a lot other things? Well, I'll take a day on and find out.

"Don't you oftentimes wonder how rascals and rogues Get along, when a good man will go to the dogs? Can you tell why a rich muo will marry for money, And street loafers think they are awfully funny? Shall I tell you why actresses powder their faces? Why five-dollar clerks always bet on the races? Why men out of fat jobs would like to get in?

of V's vegetation, while W with waccination -X- to have it, and it'll say shoo-fly to all the pests of summer. Buy, and you'll never regret it.

scented toilet soap, used for shaving, perfuming "It just got out, go run after it, it's a Qriosity the breath, making the hair curl, improving the you ease and grace of manner, all for ten cents -special inducements to tramps."

Thus our lively young peddler rattled away, and whatever he put up he sold, no matter what. At last, when it was getting late and the crowd began to grow impatient, he cleared away his table and cried out:

"Now, then, for the great social event-the high-toned colored walk for a cake, in which all the dandy coons are invited to participate."

A space from one end of the hall to the other was then cleared away, the prizes were brought out and displayed on the big table, the musicians struck up, and the walk began.

Sam, Peter and the gilt-edged clerk of the Windsor were the judges, sitting on the stage where they could see the couples as they filed past. "The toniest walker takes the cake," announced

The crowd would not let up on Sam till he had Sam, "and the lady gets this elegant feather fan,

couples. Strike up, boys, and let her go!"

took the floor.

"Am yo' gwine ter walk fur de cake, fader?" fo' dese country niggahs ebery time." asked Solomon, as Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham stepped down from the stage.

"Wall, I just guess I is, son, an' ef yo' wanter see de bes' walkin' in de hull crowd, jes' yo' keep yo' eyes on yo' fader. I feel jes' as shuah ob dat tion among the coons who participated in Sam a crash.

Jeremiah had doffed his livery, and now wore a regarding the distribution of the prizes. body else. most resplendent and very gorgeous checked suit, There were plenty who were ready to avow that And it was a bite, for a fact. with a big bunch of flowers in his button-hole, an while Jeremiah's partner no doubt deserved her That cake, though fair to see on the outside, was ach, and a collar that reached above the tops of his estly carried off the cake. ears.

and polished up to the nines, the points being six miah was to get the cake.

boards to the right and left.

importance of judicious advertising, had utilized in. the vacant space which showed between Jeremiah's The attraction of the cake walk had done his signal for Sam, Peter, Furguson, et als, to get up coat collar and the top of his head by painting business a heap of good, the receips being half as and dust, which they did right speedily. thereon in big black letters:

SMART & CO., NOTIONS AND DRY GOODS.

As Jeremiah walked around the hall everybody have minded so much. dandy coon, thinking the smiles were for him, just walker, and neither was he, by long odds.

braced up and did his prettiest. He had picked out a buxom wench in a red prizes were awarded, and kept it up during the deluded nigs at that moment. tarletan dress, green ribbons, white feathers in her succeeding march around the hall.

hair, half pound ear-rings in her big, wing-like "De ideah!" said Hercules Dusenbury, the ears, and feet like canal boats, and these two led boss barber of the place, "ob dat big no 'count got me at las'!"

the march. Then came a dude darky, tall and slim, with ob dem."

headlight diamond pin, blue gloves, and half a yo''spect." pound of pomade on his kinky locks.

shoes, blue stockings, a necklace of yellow glass yer city owe to demselves to entah a protes' agin Gerty fainted against Mr. Horatio Muggins, and beads, and cream-colored mits reaching to the dis high-handed usurpatium ob deir rights." knocked him clean off the stage. shoulders and looking suspiciously like her old "So dey do, son, so dey do," said the aged Af- The people howled, for they had tumbled to the woman's stockings.

with a red cravat, attended by a dusky fairy in a dat's what." green frock with polka-dots in red as big as your Mr. Anastasius Jawbone had an idea that the They wanted to carve him up in little pieces.

darkys, black, brown and cream-colored.

Some wore nobby clothes, some had on street other matter drop. costumes and some wore whatever had been handi- Mr. Anastasius was the only coon who wore a They did not carry out all their benevolent in-

est evidently. ber boots; another wore a derby hat, plush sacque two of the prizes, to say nothing of the whole They punched him in both eyes, they ripped his and cotton dress, and one old daddy had on over-batch. alls and cardigan jacket, though he stepped as Sam saw the looks of discontent on the dusky collar to ribbons, they kicked him in the shins,

lively as any one there. Down one side of the hall, across the end, up the sequel to his little snap. other side and in front of the stage they walked, When the three prize-winning couples had walk-ful cake, and didn't even give him some hot water the judges looking on critically as each couple ed around the hall three times he stopped the mu-to cool his breath with.

filed past. am for me, shuah," muttered Jeremiah to the daisy and seem disposed to question the decision of the suggested turning the hose on them if they did

on his arm.

don' yo' fink so, Mistah Smiff?" "I jes' reckon it war."

Up and down and around three or four times, hands." to the music of the band, walked the coons, and Jeremiah brought the cake on to the stage and "Don't believe we'd better try another one in then, at a signal from Sam, the music stopped Sam put it on the stand and got a big carving knife this place. Jeremiah wouldn't have anything to and the coons halted.

clusion that the cake and fan must go to Mr. senbury, Horatio Muggins, the old man in overalls, coons believe it was all right, after having been Jeremiah Smith and Miss Gerty Tarbox; the gold-the girl in the ulster and about a dozen more nigs, caught once. Anyhow, I think I'll skip out of this headed cane and gloves to Mr. Simon Bolivar of both sexes, got upon the stage and stood around in the morning anyhow. The place is demoraliz-Goosegrease and Miss Araminta Euphemia Horn-with expectancy pictured upon their dusky mugs. ing the boys." blower, and the bouquet of roses and the new Sam stood behind the little table, Peter was along- The next morning, accordingly, Sam moved out

Patra White-Brown."

coons as these two walked off with the first cake."

Prizes. across, six inches thick, and all icing and orna-each coon from Jeremiah to Anastasius a big slab ed his hearers: ments, on one arm, his dusky partner with her of it. prize fan on the other, and again took up the "Hold on!" cried Sam, putting up his hand, your lippers. I came here to amuse you and likemarch.

citement prevailed. lugged that big cake on one arm and the big a big hunk of cake in hand, ready to gobble it at when they'll give you the same things over and wench on the other, his face being wreathed with the word.

the other prizes being given to the two next best smiles, while his collar even seemed to brace up "One!" pronounced Sam, and every nig looked and grow three inches higher.

CHAPTER XX.

cake as ef I had um in my fis' dis bery minnit." Smart's cake walk, and also among the spectators Everybody got a bite simultaneously with every-

or eight inches long and sticking out like sign Sam knew that there would be a big kick, of ing and condensed blazes, as it could hold. course, but he had prepared for it, and there's And so the coons all got a bite, and a hot bite it Sam had furnished the collar, and realizing the where the second chapter of his little snap came was.

much again as on the previous evening.

The coons did not know about the previous arrangement, and they were not satisfied that struck by lightning. Jeremiah should collar the very first prize.

If he had taken one of the others they would not

coon takin' de fus' prize. He shouldn't hab none "Fo de lub of goodness, gib us a drink ob

barber-pole trousers, blue velveteen cutaway, yel- "Dat am jes' kase him bosses am de jidges," "Sakes alibe, dat stuff done make watah bile ef low waistcoat, lots of seals and charms, a four-responded Mr. Horatio Muggins, the principal yo' put um on it." story-and-French-roof collar, lavender necktie, a whitewash artist of the Mills. "Wha' mo' cu'd Then such a coughing, and sneezing, and chok-

"Reckon dey was plenty mo' bettah dan him," was !

rican in overalls and cardigan jacket, "dey jes' racket, but the coons were as mad as hops. Behind them walked a coon in white flannel, wanter put down de impostah right away. sah, They laid it all to Jeremiah, and they went for

dress coat, by the way, and he considered himself tentions, but what they did do was more than One girl wore an ulster, a sun bonnet and rub- most decidedly slighted in not being given at least enough to satisfy Jeremiah.

faces, and here came his opportunity to work the they yanked out his wool by handfuls, and finally

sic and said:

judges. Let me say that everything has been car-not. "Specs dat fan war jes' o'dahed fo' me, too, ried on in the most equitable manner possible, but "Suppose we could get up another cake walk,

with which to dissect it.

"After due consultation with my fellow judges,"

With which to dissect it.

Jeremiah and Miss Gerty, the other coons and "We might have it all fair and square."

their cirls. Wr. Apostoging, Jawbone, Herendee, Dr. (The might have it all fair and square." said Sam, "we have come to the unanimous con- their girls, Mr. Anastasius Jawbone, Hercules Du- "Yes, but not here. You couldn't make those

hungry mokes.

Peter. "The successful couples will march three viding it into twenty or more pieces, "this cake is denizens of the Mills. times around the hall and display their trophies." going to bring you all into harmony, one with an- "Glad to get out ob dat place," muttered Jere-

Jeremiah held that big cake, nearly two feet and all the minstrels distributed the cake, giving Sam, gathering a crowd around him, thus harangu-

"we must be harmonious in this business, and all wise to make what money I can out of you, and

The winners of the cane and gloves, bouquet and bite together, so as not to let one get the advan- I'm going to do both. bonnet, followed after them, and the greatest ex- tage of another by having the first taste. When I "Come and see my great free show and go away say three, bite."

expectant. The le mad a mort suighting vou men

The band started a march and the dandy coons "Tol' yo' I was gwine ter get dat cake," he re- "Two!" remarked Peter, and the hands apmarked complacently. "Guess I kin set de style proached the mouths, while every eye twinkled.

"Three!" cried Sam, backing away toward the

Twenty pieces of cake popped into twenty THERE was evidently a good deal of dissatisfac- mouths, and twenty pairs of jaws came down with

enormous watch chain dangling over his big stom fan, the big coon himself had by no means hon- as full of deception on the inside as the old boy himself.

Of course it had all been arranged beforehand It was just as chuck full of nepper, cloves, mus-It was a dandy, that collar, and was starched between Sam, Peter and the hotel clerk that Jere-tard, cayenne, curry, cinnamon, mace, allspice, and every other kind of spice, condiment, season-

The clashing of the jaws of those mokes was a

"Then, oh, what a surprise!" as the poet sings. Every one of those darks thought he had been

Hot?

That was no name for it.

The center of Africa, the interior of the flery saw the sign on his collar and smiled, and that They were well aware that he was not the best furnace, the very private and particular reserved hot box in the infernal regions, were all cool and They began to kick very vigorously when the shady retreats compared with the mouths of those

watah."

ing, and spitting and dancing around as there

He had on his arm a sylph-like creature of a growled Anastasius Jawbone, the leading confec- Mr. Dusenbury yanked one tail off of Mr. Jawblack-and-tan complexion, white gauze dress, pink tioner of the town, "an' de col'd sahci'ty ob dis bone's dress-coat in his excitement, while Miss

him red hot and sizzling.

aged African was putting on airs if he considered they desired to chew his ears off, they expressed After these there were all sorts and kinds of himself a member of society, but the old man's an inclination to walk on his neck, they suggested views coincided with his own, and so he let the a hankering after his blood, and in many other ways made known their animosity.

coat all the way up the back, they pulled his high they made him eat about two pounds of that aw-

After this they let him alone and went out of the "Reckon de boss tell de oder jedge dat dat cake "Some of you evidently entertain hard feelings hall, being persuaded by the janitor, who mildly

to satisfy all hands, I am now going to divide the Sam!" asked Peter, as the boy peddlers sat by cake and give you all a piece. Come up here all their cozy fire, after reckoning up their gains. "This one was a big go."

bonnet to Mr. Adolphus Maguffin and Mrs. Cleo-side, and in Iront, in a semi-circle, were the cake of the place, horse, foot and dragoons, and struck another town some seven or eight miles off, where "Please step up and receive the prizes," cried "Now," said Sam, cutting into the cake and di- the people were not so wildly hilarious as the

Jeremiah and Miss Gerty grinned, but there other, and engender good feelings. I may say it miah. "Neber did so much hahd work anywheres. were many sour looks on the faces of the other is the cake of peace, so please take a piece of Spec's I fo'git all about dat I'se a membah ob de chu'ch ef I stays dere any longah."

Then he and Peter and Solomon and Ferguson They arrived in the next place about noon when

"Fellow critters, brothers and sisters, give me

happy, and with enough new jokes to tell to your Jeremiah looked as proud as a peacock, as he There stood those coons, all in a row, each with friends all winter, and till the next show comes, make you very tired.

"Attend our monster sale and bazaar, where you "That's all I've got to say now, brethern, but be can buy anything from a pair of skates to a bottle sure and come around to-night and I'll astonish of arnica, shoe-strings, ribbons, laces, corsets, pea you. Blow the bugle, Jeremiah. Go along, nags. jackets, monkey jackets, strait jackets, hair-dye, Houp-la!" mustache invigorator or toothache drops.

value for your money and be sure of a good bar-seemed to want to buy something.

gain without having an affiliavit, consignee's guarantee or physician's certificate thrown in. Who- as far as Sam could learn, there was no prayer ever buys of us will come again, and that's the meeting, white or colored, within ten miles.

"They say that silence is golden, but you'll find come to think of it, and it happened thusly: that money talks in this shop, and the more you Jeremiah was out taking the air that afternoon,

There was a big crowd on hand in the evening. "This is the only place where you can get full and Sam sold whatever he put up, for everybody

have the better you are heard. That's why we can and was on the very outskirts of the town when whitewash artist. buy so cheap and sell all our goods at rates within he met a fellow coon with a pail of whitewash, a "Take a drink, Jeremiah?" asked the whitewash

"Yo' don' say! Play de bugle?"

" M-m."

"Get good sal'ry?" " Putty fair."

"Solomon long wif yo'?"

"Yas'r, an' yo'd orter see how dat boy has growed! Lordy! yo' wouldn' know him."

"Well, well, ef dis ain' de bes' ting happen to me in to' weeks!" and the whitewasher laughed best recommendation anybody can have. It was very strauge, but very simple when you till the tears came. "Come home wif me, Jere, an' see de folks."

"Why suttinly," and Jeremiah went off with the



"Fo' goodness sakes, I'se done cotched afiah!" "De lawd hab massy on me." "Fo' de lub of goodness, gib us a drink ob watah." "Sakes alibe, dat stuff done make watah bile ef yo' put um on it." Then such a coughing, and sneezing, and choking, and spitting and dancing around as there was!

Extra inducements given to parties with big bank) Both Jeremiah and the whitewasher paused and "No, sah, I'se a membah ob de Metodis' chu'ch

accounts to part with their dust.

"Step right up to the Grand Central Opera House this evening, see our gilt-edged, solid sillver, fren'." all wool and a yard wide show, all for nothing, and then attend the subsequent sale and go home full stranger." -of joy, of course. What did you think I meant?

> "A red-headed girl named Zabriskie, Met a dude very breezy and frisky, He mentioned white horse, She gave him club sauce, Now she keeps his remains in rye whisky.

"I suppose that's what you thought I meant? Well, I didn't, and if you don't believe it I can give Jeremiah Smiff, ob co'se?" you a temperance sermon in fifteen chapters, ten cents a copy:

> "Rum and gum makes a bum, Drinking gin causes sin, Guzzle beer - poor-house near, Sipping wine-ten dollars fine, Swilling brandy-grave-yard handy, Ale and stont, give the gout, Shun all liquor pretty quick, or You will cease to be a kicker, And they'll do you up in wicker.

looked eagerly at each other. "'Pears to me yo' face am kin' o' familiar, my

"Clar to goodness, I'se seed yo' face somewhar, the bottle.

"Hab yo' lib bery long in dis town?"

"No, sah, I jes' come." "Eber live in Yo'k?"

"Now yo's talkin'!" "Thompson street?"

" M-m."

"'Membah Lige Johnson?"

"Well, well, bress my heart! Den yo' know

"Lor' bress yo', honey, how do? Wha' yo' doin' way out yer in de woods?"

"Well, well, yo'm de last pusson I eber 'spected to meet."

"What yo' doin' yer, Lige?" "Oh, jes' libin', dat's all. I'se de boss whitewash artis' ob de town, but it fotches in mo' rep'tation dan money, son."

"Well, Well, I neber!" "What yo' doin', Jeremiah?" "Trablin' wif a show."

an' I don' drink."

"Won' hurt yo', son. Dat am be bes' licker made, won' hurt no one," and Lige took a pull at

"Kean't help it. I'se a membah ob de chu'ch." "So'm I, leadah ob de choir, too; dat don' make no diffrence," and Lige took another drop. "Do hab a little."

"No, sah, dough I ain' so prejudiced when de liquor am good."

"Dis am de bes' dat's made"-another drop-"bettah hab some," "I kean't; it's agin my principuls. Smella

mighty good, dough." "Yo' jes' bet it do, son "-another pull-" real

stuff, dis am." "Wall, it am kin' o' col', an' I'se been walkin'

putty fas' an' I'se kin' o' hot, an' mebby a lilly bit wouldn' hurt me none." "Co'se not." So Jeremiah took a little bit and then Lige kept

him company, asked Jeremiah to have one with him, and then took one with Jeremiah.

Then Jeremiah had one on his own account, to keep out the cold, and Lage took one to cool off. and so the bottle circulated as fast as the friends Contrary to his usual custom he did not sing as "H'm, dat wasn't sheets him hab on dat time, walked.

"Dat am putty good stuff," muttered Jeremiah, as any ghost.

The bottle was empty, and the two coons were midnight. only half full, a most distressing state of affairs.

plenished, and before long both of them were counter in a jiffy. drinking one another's health.

Then Lige began to stagger, or it was slippery, or now he made a slight mistake. he had the rneumatism, or something else was the Sam and Peter were sound asleep in their little more, and then Sam struck another big town where matter, and he had to take Jeremiah's arm.

All this time the pail of whitewash hung on Lige's There was a stranger in the room.

shoulder, but now it began to wabble.

but pretty soon streaks of white began to appear ure all in white, and as silent as a ghost. on Jeremiah's shoulders, running down on his manly bosom.

"Snowin', I guess, Lige. De weathaw am bery

changeabul dese days."

"Bery, an' it's so slippy, too. Gorry! yo' mos' fell down dat time, son. Lucky I had hol' ob yo'." moved. "'Pears to me it was yo' what mos' fell down, Lige."

"No, sah, yo's mistooken."

"Bery likely. Snowin' agin, ain' it?"

The whole front of Jeremiah's coat was white. and streams now ran down his back.

The farther they went the whiter he got and the less there was in the pail.

Jeremiah wasn't sure if he were one person or two, if he were himself or some one else or both, and would have answered to almost any of his

Maybe he was the one who did all the slipping for some time. or maybe it was Lige: he wasn't sure, but he knew He supposed that the coon was in his night cat and dog, and then Sam sang a song with that somebody fell and that he had to pick them clothes and indulging in sleep walking, part of about twenty extra verses thrown in, for the

up. latter's house.

Both were white from head to foot, both were panion Lige Johnson. rather incoherent of speech, and both were very Sam's explanations awoke Jeremiah, who bolted night, but during the following day he hustled affectionate and loath to part with the other.

tween Lige's collar and the back of his neck.

How it got there nobody knew.

tidy kitchen where she was frying bacon, and one putty tiahed to git all dat whitewash on me. of them said:

Smiff f'om Yo'k. Yo' know J'miah, don' yo'? Wha' in the morning he put on another suit and went at the first, and a box of candy to the next." yo' got fo' suppah?"

on de road, fotched him home, got cotched in de him for some time, and then said: dat?"

That was Mrs. Johnson's broom, and it took him "Neber yo' min' how I git um on, sah. Dat am them.

right across the cheek.

He fell over a bench near the stove and lay on out ob close." the floor near it totally disinclined to get up.

think things over.

while to change. fell asleep, and as Mrs. Johnson was an agreeable that little occurrence. body who did not like to disturb folks, there he re- It made him smart to think of it even now.

mained. to drink! It am jes' shameful. Let him lie dere, yo' like dat, sah, 'm?"

"Got cotched in a snow sto'm, did dey? H'm! That day he overheard a conversation between seminary girls, and the old maid saw that she was dere's all dat whitewash what I spected to hab Lige Johnson and his father, the two cronies left unless she could outflank her giddy rival. Lige fix up de chicken-house wif, so's to make happening to meet in the hotel yard. "Now, then, ladies and gentlemen," said Sam,

nuffin'. "I know it war Jeremiah what got Lige to drinkin'. Cose it was, dere's de bottle in him coat pockyo'self, an' yo'spill de wash all obah me. Took me the old maid and said: et now. Wondah ef dere's any lef' in it? I'se all de mo'nin' to git um off."

"I claim the prize myself. I brought fifty-three

good fo' dem. a taste ob liquor m'se'f 'casionally. T'ink dey yo' fault. Gorry! we mus' hab got away wif a Featherhead has sixty-two, and that beats your lot might hab lef' me a lilly bit, at leas', de loafahs! lot!"

was still asleep, and of course she would not dis- I don'take nuffin' strongah dan milk."

Miss Featherhead only brought fifty."

turb him.

there, sleeping away like a log. Finally it got to be quite late, and Mrs. Johnson This little conversation gave Solomon an idea the prize."

himself, for he seemed to be still asleep, marched Solomon, or your father will come into your room. The young lady had made up her mind to get

he walked along his weary road, but was as silent boss, it war whitewash. Him an' Lige Johnson

The half asleep clerk caught one glance of Jere-in yo' room by mistook. Dat's how it was." Lige knew a place where the flask could be re-mian, and then fell off his chair and under the "Oho, that's it, eh?" thought Sam, and after-

Jeremiah had come straight enough, so far, but story.

beds when they suddenly awoke with a start.

The light of the moon came in at the window, low everything, by any means. Nobody knew just how it happened, of course, and there, standing in its full radiance, was a fig-

"Get your pop, Sam! It's a burglar!" "I'll burgle him." "Oh, no, it's a ghost."

"Either will do."

Sam was about to fire when the white figure tain and said:

low and took the ghost on the head.

room, sho' yo' bo'n."

here or I'll make mincemeat of you."

Jeremiah John got.

CHAPTER XXI.

which was true enough.

As far as appearances went, you could not tell He had been sleep-walking, to be sure, but the deposited upon his clothes by his friend and com-ruption till ten o'clock.

forthwith and made his way to his own room.

alarm.

"Fo' de lan' sakes, de boss mus' ha' fought dat evening. Two snowy figures walked into Mrs. Johnson's I wus a ghos', sure 'nuff. Specs I mus' ha' been gotter clean it off or de boss s'pect suffin'."

it again.

Did yo' fall into a mo'tah troff?"

whitewash, sah, an' it am good to take de spots One society belle rallied her admirers and

Lige went off to a bedroom and sat down to leave it on. Wha' yo' s'pose Marse Sam say?"

don' yo'?"

"Yo' do 'membah it, h'm? Wall, dat's wha' yo' after the sale. "De idee ob J'miah John Smiff, a membah ob git ebery time yo' tol' de boss on me, an' mebbe! The young lady with her fifty beaux, seeing that

de ole pig! Jes' hope de flah'll singe ehery bit ob Solomon had nothing to say, and the subject had come alone, being wearisome he went away.

tings look spectable, an' dis lazy niggah got him "Lan' sakes, Jeremiah, reckon yo' took home "we will award the prizes. I find that Miss all ober his coat. Some folks am too shifless fo' a hull bucket of whitewash on yo' close las' night. Featherhead has sixty-two escorts, and she there-Yo' mus' hab been awf'ly undah de 'flooence." | fore gets the gloves."

yah, how de ole woman teah roun' dis mo'nin'. you so." "Not a drap! De stingy fellah! Reckon I like Clar she'd nevah spoke to yo' agin. Said 'twas all "Well, my dear young lady," said Sam, "Miss

She would have disturbed her other guest, how-take de taste ob de pail out'n yo' mouf, don' yo', budget, but the latter said: ever, if he had not been so heavy, and so he lay yah-ha, yo' can' fool me, Jeremiah, 'deed yo' "Ask the door-keeper how many young gentlekean't."

That big coon at last awoke, or at least aroused "You want to look out how you behave, brought fifty. the nearest road to the hotel. to me, and scare the life out of you."

get on a tare an' fall ober deirse'fs, an' fader got presently; "de on'y trubble is, dere ain' nuff of Straight to the hotel he went, and straight in, de stuff all ober him close, an' lie undah de stobe the office door being open, aithough it was past half de night, an' den get up an' walk in him sleep, scar' de life out'n de cluk in de offiss, an' den git

ward he and Peter had a good laugh over the

Well, things went on swimmingly for a week or he had to hustle to catch the trade of the citizens. who were up to the period, and would not swal-

Sam was a hustler from Wideawake, however. and it was as natural to him to make things fly as it is for a small boy to get out of doing work.

That evening when the crowd had gathered, attracted by the announcement that everything was free, Sam came forward in front of the cur-

"Here we are again, fellow dyspeptics, and here Instead of sending a bullet, Sam grabbed a pil- we intend to stay. You will now see the best show ever given in this town, and all for nothing, "Fo' de lan' sake! Wheah is I? Dis amn't my and after that I intend to sell you something. The show isn't a sell, though, as you will see. The "Jeremiah John!" cried Sam, "go on out of best talent, the newest jokes, the funniest acts and all for nothing. Let her go, boys!"

Then the curtain went up and Sam took his place in the middle, with Peter on one end and Jeremiah on the other, for the arrangement was frequently changed so as to give constant variety.

Sam did not find out the real cause of Jeremiah's After a round of jokes, funny conversation. aumerous names with equal celerity. | whiteness when he came into his employer's room songs, choruses and glees. Peter put his trick mule through his exercises, Solomon exhibited the accommodation of his enthusiastic audience.

Then there was more show, and after that the Jeremials from Lige by the time they arrived at the white was the whitewash which had been liberally sale began and continued with an occasional inter-

Sam's business was only moderately good that things, scattered handbills ail over the place, gave There was no whitewash in the pail at all, by the He was wide awake enough now, and an exami- a concert in front of the hall, and advertised to way, and one of the brushes was thrust down be- pation of his garments revealed the cause of Sam's give a handsome present to the young lady who would bring the most young fellows with her that

"This is leap year," said he, "and we must all I be on the jump. Here's your chance, girls. The more young fellows you bring the more chance "Ebenin', Hannah, brought a fren' home, J'miah He was an hour or more getting the stuff off, and you have to get a prize. A dozen gloves given to

There was a boy's boarding-school in the place, "Ebenin', Mis' Johnson, glad to see yo', met Lige | Solomon came in while he was at work, watched and one enterprising old maid invited the whole gang of fifty-three to accompany her, filing them in wuss snow storm as eber was, an'--- Lor' what "Whar yo' git all de plastah on yo' close, fader? like a company of soldiers the minute the hall was opened, and inviting the door-keeper to count

> brought fifty of them to the hall, thinking that she "Reckon it knock spots out ob de cloff ef yo' was certain of getting the prize, not having reckoned on the old maid and her boys.

"Neber yo' min' what he say. Ef I cotch yo' tell- Some brought a dozen or twenty, and some only He may have intended to sit on the lounge, but in' tales I gib yo' wha' yo' kean't buy for a cent. three or four, while one young man, reversing the he took the floor instead, and did not think it worth Yo' 'membah de las' time yo' tol' 'tories on me, order of things, scooped in a whole female seminary and marched forty giddy girls into the hall, It took him so long to think things over that he Oh, yes! Solomon had a vivid remembrance of much to the astonishment of the man at the door.

Sam gave a rattling entertainment that evening, and announced that the prizes would be given

de chu'ch, comin' off ver an' inducin' my hustan' sometimes dere'll be nails in de shingle, too. How she was likely to lose the prize, flew around and scooped in a dozen or more young fellows who Then the boarding-school boys hooked on to the

gwine ter make pies to-morrer, an' dis am bery "Wall, I reckon bose ob us was putty full, yah-young gentlemen in, and the door-keeper will tell

by a dozen."

Lie dere, yo' nassy beas'. Jes' like to dump de flah out on yo', so I would."

"Yo' did, p'r'aps, Lige, but I didn' take none. "You said the one who brought the largest number out on yo', so I would."

I had to see yo' home, an' yo' slopped de white-ber was to have the prize. You didn't say any-Mrs. Johnson had her supper alone, for Lige wash all ober me. I'se a membah ob de chu'ch an' thing about picking them up after you got here.

"Yas, but yo' put a drop ob whisky in um to Miss Featherhead looked daggers at Miss Fuss-

men I brought in, and see if I am not entitled to

concluded that she had better go to bed, for there which he hung on to till a few days later, when The door-keeper confirmed Miss Fussbudget, seemed to be no way of getting rid of Jeremiah. Sam said to him:

out of the house without saying a word, and took some night all dressed in white, the same as he did that box of gloves, and so she whispered some-

"Aw, me deah sah, I wish to call attention to one thing, don't ye know."

"You call me, do you?" said Sam. "Then

you'll have to show your hand."

"The pwoposition mentioned young fellahs, not boys, don't ye know. Miss Fussbudget has bwought meah childwen, and they don't count," The boys, some of whom were eighteen years

old, did not relish this, and one of them said: "Wait till we catch that dude outside. He'll see

what the children will do with him." "We'll bury him in the snow."

"We'll put him to bed." "We'll smash his dicer in."

"The young gentlemen are not children," sputtered Miss Fussbudget. "They are young men, and that is just what the notice said, and I claim the prize. I brought them here-I did not go around coaxing them to sit with me after I had come."

Sam thought a moment and then said:

"Miss Fussbudget gets the gloves and Miss Featherhead the box of candy. The point was of fellows after getting here."

spokesman got up and said:

"It isn't faiah, don't ye know. Chwildwen

weren't to be counted." "How did you happen to get on the young lady's somebody else on, and at last got down to busi- the middle of the room.

list, then?" asked Sam. "Yaw a loafaw, sah, and if you'll come outside

I'll punch yaw head." "If you think you can do it, you may step right up here on the stage," said Sam. "We've never

"You'll be dwummed out of town," cried the

dude, angrily.

"Ah! That's good. I generally go out to the music of a brass band. But I never had any drums. That'll be something extra."

"Yaw show is no good." "Then it's a match for you."

"Yaw too fwesh, and I'd like to lick you," sputtered the dude.

"Rats!" cried the boys. "Hurrah for the Academy boys and for Miss Fussbudget."

"Miss Fussbudget takes the box of gloves," said Sam, "and Miss Leatherhead the candy,"

"Featherhead, not Leatherhead," said the in-dence.

dignant young lady.

"Oh, I beg your pardon; I was thinking of the young man," said Sam, and ever after that poor miah?" he said, in the course of the forenoon. dude was known as Leatherhead by all the boys in town.

Fussbudget got the gloves; the dude declined Sam's invitation to have a little boxing match on opening his eyes. the stage, and Miss Featherhead went home mad enough to chew her'own bangs off at the thought o'dah, has I?" of having been outgeneraled by that old maid.

When the crowd got outside the Academy boys doctor." snow-balled the dudes, and made them very fired, while Sam was declared to be a regular brick.

to the show and bought extensively, so that Sam till he suddenly collapses." did a better business than he had done both previous nights put together.

Then he concluded to shake the place and go somewhere else, and in order to get ahead of the pletely, that's what it is. You want to look out There, standing before him, was a white and dudes, hired the Academy boys to blow on fish- that you don't." horns, and so drown the noise of the drum corps which Miss Featherhead had organized.

town. "I never had things stirred up so before. body." Leatherhead and his dudes will never forgive me, "What was dat, boss?" but those Academy boys will always be my friends, and wherever I meet one I will be sure of a wel-ber them, and that shows that you're pretty bad." come."

Three or four small towns were then visited, and to imagine all sorts of things. then Sam struck another big one, where he made up his mind to remain the whole week.

The first night the hall was full to the very doors, and Sam started off with his very newest gag so as

to catch the crowd. After the overture he and Peter rattled away at each other for five or ten minutes, keeping the

audience in a continual roar. Then Solomon did a banjo solo, and the minstrel boys sang a lot of choruses, while the two partners were behind the scenes getting ready for something entirely new, which Ferguson announced at a

signal from Sam. Then Sam and Peter came out and did a song all right?" and dance, Sam taking the first innings as follows:

> "Down in the shady lane Where the modest violet grows, Lives my little sweetheart, Her name is Susie Rose. I meet her every evening Where the streamlet softly flows; She's my only mash, If I had some cash I'd wed my Susie Rose.

"Sweet, laughing eyes, cheeks rosy red, Dimpled chin, wavy hair all round her head. Ain't she a daisy? I'm nearly crazy With my darling Susie Rose."

Then, after dancing around the stage for a few sang his little verse.

> " Down in the shady lane Lives pretty Susie Rose. If I meet that other nigger I'll smash him on the nose. If we should meet to-night We'll surely come to blows. If he comes to mash, I'll settle his hash And run off with Susie Rose.

" Lovely black eyes and nose so red, That's what I'll give him, and smash his head. Oh, I'm a daisy, I'll drive him crazy, If I catch him fooling around Susie Rose."

well taken. Anybody could rake in a whole army Sam came in and they both danced and went own accord. through a burlesque slugging match together, after Miss Fussbudget's boys set up a loud crowing, which they both sang the praises of the lovely the poor coon, his wool beginning to straighten but Miss Featherhead's dudes were mad, and the Susie Rose, and finally danced off the stage to great out. applause.

> They were called out once or twice, and might of his way in the same fashion. have continued singing all night, but Sam put Then he noticed a queer sort of arrangement in

neckties went like hot cakes, toilet soap found a It looked like one of these portable shower baths ready sale, tooth paste went booming, and, in fact, that dudes have in their rooms, being closed in whatever Sam offered sold as fast as put up.

A song or dance now and then, while he was given sparring exhibitions, but I'm always ready looking over his stock, kept the crowd in good bearing these words: humor and made them want to buy all the more eagerly when the young peddler got at them again.

Solomon, Jeremiah and the rest kept things whooping, and Sam cleaned out all his small stock and a good deal of his big before shutting up shop for the night.

The next day, having not much to do, Sam thought he would play a little joke on the big as to its meaning for some minutes. coon.

not far from the hotel, and he, Sam and Peter fixed up the gag in good working order.

Sam had become acquainted with the doc, knew he was a joker, and so took him into his confi-

"Nuffin', sah, as I knows on."

wild, and do such queer things?"

"Wha' I done queer, boss?" asked Jeremiah, rules ef I bust."

"No, sah, habn't done nuffin' out'n de reg'lah "Well, I should giggle. You'd better go see the

"Does I look sick, boss?"

"Yes, sir, very bad, and that's the worst with doctor's office. The next night all the boys, and a lot more, came this sort of trouble, the patient thinks he's all right The curtains opened almost without Jeremiah's

"What am dat, boss?" asked the coon, getting Then that poor coon saw what caused his blood alarmed.

"Goes all to pieces, breaks down, busts up com- a solid lump.

"Den I done queer tings, too, boss?" "Oh, awfully queer. If I hadn't known you "That was fun," said Sam, as he got beyond the were sick I never would have stood them from any-

"Oh, never mind now. You wouldn't remem-Poor Jeremiah began to tremble like a leaf, and

'deed I does. Wha' I bettah do, sah?" "Go to a doctor."

"Whar was dey a good un, boss?"

"On the next block, Dr. Black." "Am he a col'd man, boss?"

"No, you'll find him pretty white, I reckon."

"You flok he tol' me wha' de mattah wif me?" "Undoubtedly."

"Hey, wha' dat, boss?" "That means certainly."

door."

"I hope so," said Sam, gravely.

"Laws o' massy! Den yo' ain' shuah ob it?" "No, and you had better lose no time." Then Jeremiah John was frightened, for a cer-

tainty. "Whar yo'say de doctah lib, boss?" he asked. side of the way, up one flight, Dr. Black on the skeleton to dance.

"A'right, boss. I go right away dis minute. Ef ting?" I hab to odah a car'ge, will yo' pay fo' it?"

"Pay for a hearse? Oh, yes," said Sam, cheerfully.

Jeremiah did not stop to explain that that was not what he meant, for Sam's little remark broke him all up.

He just got out of that in a hurry, found his hat minutes, Sam skipped out, and Peter came on and and coat and hurried away as fast as he could put, bifore whate the lines could a want ou

He found the doctor's office all right as Sam had directed, went up-stairs, and knocked at the door. There was no answer and he knocked again in a few minutes. It was 10 , mail and the state of the

Still there was no reply, and he gave the door a kick or wordens standard of we to lime will minist with

It flew open, but no one was visible.

There was nothing to be seen but a small, square room, neatly and simply furnished.

Two or three doors could be seen, a lounge, a couple of chairs and some pictures. "Guess I sit down an' wait fo' de doctah," he

muttered. He approached one of the chairs to sit down

Then Peter did his turn at dancing, and then when it immediately moved away from him of its

"Fo' de lan' sakes, wha' dat mean?" chattered

He went toward the other chair and that got out

It was a sort of screen, being tall and round, and Shoe laces, stove blacking, collar buttons and having curtains hanging from the top to the floor.

with red curtains on all sides. On the side nearest Jeremiah there was a card

"RING THE BELL INSIDE."

Jeremiah went up, examined the card, and was very much impressed by all this mystery.

"Ring de bell inside, hey?" he muttered. "Inside what? Inside de co'tains? Wondah ef dat's de way to call de doctah?"

He stood peering at the thing, and speculating

"Ring de bell inside of dat t'irg? Wall, dat's de There was a wag of a doctor who had his office funnies' yet. Why don' he hab de bell on de do' outside? How am a fellah gwine to know 'nuff to come in fust off? Reckon dat am de queerest t'ing I eber seed.

"Ring de bell inside, hey? Inside de co'tains, I reckon. Wha' fo' he put de bell dere, anyhow? "What's the matter with you this morning, Jere- War he 'fraid somebody steal um? Wall, I reckon ef dey see all I seed dey be too frightened to steal anyfing.

"Nothing the matter, when you look so pale and "Ring de bell, hey? Wall, I don' see no oder way ob callin' im, an' I specs I gotter obey de

Then Jeremiah pulled aside the curtain.

CHAPTER XXII.

JEREMIAH pulled aside the red curtains which draped the mysterious frame-work standing in the

touching them, as it were.

to go away down forty below zero and freeze into

ghastly skeleton, grinning at him like a Cheshire cat.

The minute the curtains were drawn the grizzly thing began to dance. A skeleton was bad enough, to start with.

That wasn't the worst of it, though.

A dancing skeleton was a peg higher than Jeremiah's nerves could endure.

His hair stood out as though charged with electricity, his own limbs shook as bad as those of "Sakes alive, boss, I do begin to feel kinder bad, the skeleton, and he let out a yell loud enough to smash all the glass in the place.

He had never been so terribly scared in all his

The skeleton danced more wildly, and at last put up its hand as if to take its head off to throw at the coon.

That was too much for Jeremiah.

He let out one whoop and fell over backwards on the floor all in a heap.

He didn't know anything for about five minutes, "Oh, dat's it, hey? Yo' tink de doctah fix me up and then when he came around he found himself sitting on a lounge with Sam, Peter and the doctor standing before him.

Nothing could be seen of the skeleton, or the mysterious frame with its red curtains.

dam and the doctor had wheeled that into the next room and stuck it in a closet.

They had likewise taken away the wires with "On the next block, in the middle of it, on this which they had made the chairs to move and the "Dat yo', boss?" said Jeremiah. "Whar am dat

"What thing?"

bones what dance an' sear' de life out'n me."

mean?"

down an' made out he was gwine ter chuck him stuff, which was nothing but colored water, and once." head at me when I done flop right down on de the poor coon thought he would explode. flo' an' neber know nuffin'."

and all three shook their heads.

"Pretty bad case, eh, doc?" "Very."

"Softening of the brain, eh?" said Peter.

"Looks like it."

"Too bad," muttered Sam.

"Too bad," muttered Sam.
"Wha' yo' say, boss?" asked Jeremiah, opening Jeremiah gulped, twisted himself into a bow He thought he could get along without Sam's his eyes.

"He imagines all sorts of things, I suppose," out.

said the doctor to Sam, "Seems to."

"Neber 'magined nuffin', boss," protested Jere-fore. miah. "I see dat skilligan plain as I see youse, "Golly! I reckon yo' kill me sure 'nuff, ef yo' After that they let Sam's route alone and pera-dancin' an' a-caperin' roun' jes' like he hab a fit." gibs me any mo' stuff like dat," he muttered. Wouldn't he be here now if he had been?" | doctor, taking up the bottle.

"Donno, boss," muttered the coon. "Specs That deluded coon began to smell a mouse by At the end of a fortnight Ferguson ran away

likely he would?" , without and morthwala lamp A "That's only another of your strange freaks, He grabbed the bottle from the doctor and was busted.

"Why, this morning you told me I was no good me anyfing else I broke yo' jaw."

and that you could sell more stuff in a month than Then he dusted out of that pill shop and down
He finally relented so far as to get up a big bene-Sam could in six."

"Neber did, Marse Pete, neber did, declar' fo' "Don' b'leve dey was anyfing de mattah wif me to their homes. it I neber did."

omon awfully, because he had been to church." "Oh, boss! Lick dat boy fo' gwine to chu'ch! out de windah."

Sakes alibe! I lick him kase he don' go 'nuff."

makes it worse," said Peter. "Very deplorable case," chimed in the doctor-

"wery." of ent office the a lead to work to "And only last night, you know, you told me net. not to give you any of my sauce, don't you re- He went back to the hotel and walloped Solomon, the trumpet, and made a tremendous racket. member?" said Sam.

Yes, and shook your fist in his face, too." "And told me to go and walk on myself."

er as long as you lived?" "And how you asked the deacon to get up a Jeremiah felt better after licking Solomon, but the dandiest lot of goods you ever saw.

prayers?"

and the whole gang?"

"You don't think we'd lie, do you?" said Sam and said: and Peter in a breath.

bah nuffin' 'bout it."

of memory and all that. Very bad case sir, very did I find you fellows?" bad indeed." "Goodness me!" moaned Jeremiah.

"You've been working too hard," said Sam,

"Altogether," added Peter. "You must take a rest,"

"Go to Europe." "Forget business."

"And take care of yourself."

"Fo' goodness sake, am it so bad as dat, boss?" "I would like to take hold of this case," said the doctor, rubbing his hands. "I'll guarantee to

kill or cure him in a few days." "Lor' sake, I don' wanter be killed, doctah,"

nowled Jeremiah. "Kean't yo' cuah me?" "Well, I'll try."

You'd better let him, Jeremiah," said Sam. said Ferguson. "Your case needs attending to at once."

Poor Jeremiah was so scared that he never all hands, you can go, but I want to find out if it

tumbled to it that they were guying him.

an instant's notice. "First I must give you a shock," said the doc- without them.

tor. "Come inside, please." him a dandy electric shock to begin with.

Jeremiah had had a similar experience before, good business. and he jumped and pranced about like a mule at When Sam arrived the business fell off, and the first touch.

Then the doctor brought out a four quart bottle while his sale was crowded. ulled with some reddish liquid.

"De ting wif de co'tains roun' um, de man all "You must take some of this right away," he singing his must popular songs and doing all his

thought he would burst.

you undahstan'? Jes' de framewo'k wif nuffin' on "Oh, dear, dear, that isn't enough. You haven't peated.

"Now you must take some of these pills," and has," blustered Ferguson.

Sam looked at Peter, the doctor looked at Sam, the doctor brought out a lot of pellets as big as "Well, I guess you haven't. Those songs are peas.

They made things lively going down his throat, quick as lightning." however, for they were red hot with cayenne Ferguson saw that Peter meant business and

When he put it in he was wiping his mouth on Sam did a rushing business and made lots of

this time.

"Yes, you've been doing some funny things "Reckon I hab tooken all de watah I'se gwine to take them along with him.

'tall! De boss jes' done fool me, dat's all. Kean't By this it will be seen that Sam's life was not "And yesterday," said Sam, "you thrashed Sol-tell me dey wasn't a skilligan dere all de time. I altogether a bed of roses, but he was plucky, and seed him behin' de closet do' when I put my head by dint of hard work, perseverance and natural

hearing them.

That convinced him that he had been the victim asleep for the past fifty years. of a practical joke and made him as mad as a hor- Sam determined to wake it up, however, so he

idea what it was for than the man in the moon.

"Very bad case," groaned the doctor. "Reckon fader got crazy," he muttered, as he "Fellow snoozers! I've come here to wake you dat," cried the poor nig getting scared. place to sit down in. "Don' know what I got in a century. "Why, don't you remember saying you had licked fo' no more'n nuffin'. Wish I could see "Behold me, the great, original and only Sam shaken prayer meetings and wouldn't go to anoth-dat col'd boy I was playin' wif yes'day. I take it Smart, the sauciest and smartest peddler in all the out ob him fo' sass'faction."

down, for two days.

"And threatened to put a head on me and Peter In the meantime Sam had given the town the which you can buy or not, just as you like, it makes royal bounce, and had gone on to another, where no odds.

show."

boy." a lot of new business, paid your bills, and gave "Come one, come all, to the old Town Hall, and you a good engagement."

I am the leader, and ought to get more."

"How much do you want?" "Forty dollars a week, and all expenses."

"Don't you want to run the whole business, and pretty good crowd. have a good solid laugh.

"Well, we want more money, or we'll leave,"

"All right," said Sam. "If that's the feeling of

is first." He thought he was ready to fall into the grave at It seemed to be, for the whole crowd had big heads and thought that Sam could never get along

Sam paid their expenses over night, and the next He took that poor nig into his office, and gave morning they went to a town where he was due the next day, and gave a show that night to fairly

scarcely a dozen people attended the minstrel show

He learned that Ferguson and the boys had been

said. "Drink all you can." funny business, the same being copyrighted.

"A man all bones, Jeremiah, what do you Jeremiah took the bottle and drank till he Ferguson moved on to another town in Sam's route, and Peter went over that night, sat in the "I see a man lookin' like he wants upholst'in', He started to put it down, when the doctor said: rear of the hall and saw all Sam's funny snaps re-

him. Wha' yo' call dat?"

"The next morning he called upon Ferguson in "Fo' massy sakes, doctah, I done bus' ef I drink company with a sheriff's officer and said:

"Yes'r, dat's um, a skilligan. I see a skilligan any mo'. I'se full up to de muzzle now." | "Look here, Ferguson, you're singing Sam's right yer in dis room, an' he done dance a break- The doctor made him take another quart of the songs and doing his acts, and you must stop it at

"I guess we've as much right to do them as he

private property and here are the copyrights. This He made the poor coon swallow a dozen of them is a sheriff's officer. This time I merely warn you. at once before he could taste them. Repeat the offense and I'll clap you into jail as

knot and ran to a window and stuck his head songs, however, and he went opposition to Sam himself in the very next town.

his sleeve, and he didn't look half so big as be-money, but Ferguson's minstrels were frozen

formed their own old acts, sang their ancient songs "But there isn't any skeleton here, Jeremiah. "Now you must take the rest of it," said the and did the same chestnutty business they were doing when Sam first found them.

with what little money there was and the show

Jeremiah John," said Sam, gravely. | chucked it out of the window into the back yard. | Sam found them stranded, and they wanted him

lately," added Peter, as solemn as a judge.

ter," he sputtered. "Yo' jes' done make a fool ob "No, sir," said Sam, "you tried to run me out me, but I 'low I'se got my eyes open an' ef yo' gibs and you got left. That's all I want to have to do ter," he sputtered. "Yo' jes' done make a fool ob "No, sir," said Sam, "you tried to run me out

stairs, rauttering to himself: fit for them, and made enough money to send them

shrewdness, managed to get along tolerably well.

Sam, Peter, and the doctor laughed to split the One day, along in the spring, when wheels were "Of course you don't remember it, and that minute Jeremiah got away, and he could not help preferable to runners, he struck an old-fashioned town in the mountains that seemed to have been

drove around, scattered dodgers everywhere, blew

so as to get even with somebody. Driving up in front of the only hetel in the Poor Sol got a daisy basting, and had no more place he stood up in his seat, cleared his voice, and shouted:

"Fo' goodness sakes, I neber done nuffin' ob all went off rubbing his legs and looking for a soft all up and open your eyes wider than they've been

world, with my first-class variety combination and card and dance party in the church parlors?" | the little coon had no chance to work off his anger, "Here, to-night, in the town hall, I propose to "And how you licked Solomon for saying his and he felt sore and sad, particularly when he sat set you all to laughing and won't charge you a cent, and after that I will show you my goods,

"Fo'de lan'sakes!" muttered Jeremiah, leaning he raked in the ducats in the liveliest way. "We have toilet soap that will make your hair back on the lounge, the cold sweat pouring off him, Then Ferguson, the leader of the minstrels, curl, silver castors to open your eyes, razors to did I do all dat an' neber 'member a wo'd ob it?" came to him and took hold of one of his buttons, sharpen your wits on, sausage grinders that will

astonish you, and everything else in proportion. "Look here, Sam, you ought to pay us fellows "Step right up to the Town Hall and see us, h'all "No, boss, but it am bery funny I don' remem- more money. We're the biggest part of your of you, and bring your grandmothers, sisters, cousins and aunts. You never heard that joke, I "Softening of the brain," said the doctor. "Loss "Oh, you are, eh? Well, I like your cheek. How reckon. Anyhow, come along and give us a good send-off.

"Temporarily embarrassed, that's all, my dear "Clocks that will run a year, stove lifters that never get hot, tooth paste good enough to eat, shoe-"H'm! I like that. You were dead busted, blacking that you can use for the complexion, and that's what you were, and I took you up, gave you baking powder that will raise the roof, all for sale.

start the ball, so I can make a haul, so skip the "Well, we want more money, or I do, anyhow. canawl for that is all, yours truly. Jeremiah, the sun-burned Caucasian, will now toot the bugle."

That sort of talk kind of waked up the old daddies of the town, and in the evening Sam had a

pay me a salary to sell goods?" said Sam, in that "Brothers and sisters," he began, "we will open serious way of his, though he was perishing to the ball with a ballad sung before all the old fossils of Europe. Tune up, brethren."

Jeremiah, Peter and Solomon then started the air, and Sam let himself loose, thusly:

Why is it when walking along on the street, If a red-headed maiden you chance for to meet, You very soon after as a matter of course, Come straightway upon a very white horse? I don't know, I'm sure.

Why is it that dudes wear such very high collars, Or that absence of brains goes with plenty of dollars? Can you tell me why fall always follows the summer, Or who has the most cheek, a tramp or a drummer? I don't know, I'm sure.

" Do you know why it is, when looking for mashes, The girls always like the biggest mustaches? Or can you explain, why they'd ratter have money, Than brains or good looks, it's awfully funny? I don't know, I'm sure.

" Why don't deacons object to the selling of chances, On goods at church lairs, when they're so down on dances?

Or think if they are good, one day out of the seven, And bad all the rest, they will go straight to heaven? I don t know, I'm sure.

"Don't you think if I kept asking questions all night, That you couldn't answer the half of 'em right? But perhaps you imagine I'm as mad as a hatter, Well, maybe I am, is that what's the matter? I don't know, I'm sure."

This ditty caught the crowd, and they laughed themselves sick and wanted more of the same gits drefful col' trablin' froo dese yer regiums." sort.

Then Peter sang, and Solomon, Moses, the mule ter go and get it." and the cat did an act after which Jeremiah played the bugle.

Sam managed to get down to business after a Go and get it. I guess it's there yet." time, but he did not sell very much, as folks seemed a little slow.

He did better in making the gang laugh than in making it buy his goods, but then, he knew that it come 'long an' pick it up." takes all sorts of people to make a world, and he reckoned that he would get on to them after reached the woods. awhile.

went to bed, trying to find a way out of the diffi-ten feet of him. culty.

the first thing in the morning," said Peter.

"No, my son, I've never given up beaten yet,

"Well, how are you going to do it?" asked Peter, after several plans had been proposed and rejected.

"Guess I'll sleep on it, Petey. I'll tell you all

about it in the morning."

fast he met an odd-looking customer in the office, out to bring it in. who advanced and said:

o' yours draw more, so's you can sell more miah very soon found that out for himself. stuff?"

he said:

"What's the matter with the show, partner? The very sight of the creature coming toward It's lively enough, but it's the people that want him on its hind legs was enough to terrify him waking up. I don't believe any of 'em has spent without waiting for further developments. a dollar in a year."

heads, 'stead of taking 'em in the ribs. They can't agility than one would have given him credit for, make a fire of. see your jokes. Couldn't see more'n half of 'em considering his size and general indolence.

If he hadn't, we are afraid that poor Jeremiah myself and I ain't no moss-grown idiot, by a good He was certain that if he attempted to run the would have been badly hurt. deal."

"Why, they laughed hard enough."

"They laughed at the niggers, and the dog, and The trees in the little strip of woods were not ed upon. the mule, the most, and that's what they under-very big any of them, and Jeremiah had chosen "Fo' goodness sake, wha' dropped?" he rean' I know what I'm sayin'."

strauger.

The latter stood nearly seven feet in his boots, He managed to throw one of his fat legs over a The coon sat up and began to look around when was dressed in furs, had one eye and a hooked limb, though how he did it, in his fright, it would be saw the bear sitting right in front of him. thin that he scarcely cast any shadow, and looked 'Then he clung to the tree with both hands and bil ob a wil' beas' agin."

the fellow all over.

fox and some bully big smakes, in my wagon just took. out o' town. Come in last night to see the show "Fo' massy sake, Jis' look at dat critter! My got out of that locality with the greatest alacrity. and look about afore I struck 'em myself."

"Traveling menagerie, eh?"

"That's about the heft of it. Now, I reckon, ef tons. I wasn't disposed to do the square deal, that I "G'way dar, Mistah Bar! g'way, I tol' yo'. I "Guess he thought it was time for the bear's derstand them, but they don't couple to your wit, lile, bress me if it ain'."

troubl-.

"Wall, vou're a enipper young feller, an' I like low growl. you, an' I'm goin' to give ye a lift. Just try my "G'way, I tol' yo'," howled that coon, whose leg That afternoon Sam drove all around town and animiles fur one night, an' if ye don' find it makes seemed about to be cut in two by the limb over then harangued the gang from the hotel plazza.

thin woods where his wagon stood under a tree, the leah, why don' somebody dribe away dat frecious great west at an enormous expense. horse contentedly cropping the dry grass where animile, an' let dis po' nigger free?

the rest of 'em," he said. "I'll show you what down dar, whicheber it am. they can do. Come out, John Henry."

der which his trainer placed before him.

things, and Sam was greatly delighted.

"I'll try you to-night, Ike, and I'll let the folks know about the bear and all that. If it takes, I'll fac'. Les' sing: make a regular arrangement with you."

Ike was satisfied, and then Sam told him something in confidence and went back to the hotel. Jeremiah was just coming out from breakfast, and Sam said to him:

"Jeremiah, how would you like a bear skin for

an overcoat?"

"Lordy, Marse Sam, I spec dat'd be fus' rate. I "I saw one in the woods just now. You'd bet-

"You done see a bear skin in de woods, boss?" "Yes, just north of here on the edge of town,

"Why didn' yo' took it, yc'se'f, boss?"

" I didn't wart it."

He began looking around for the bear skin, when and particular moment.

He managed to clear his expenses and no more, suddenly he heard a growl, and, glancing up, saw A quiet signal from his master, Mr. Ike Bantam,

"I think we'd better shake the sleepy old place was on de bear! Sakes alibe! I'se a gone niggah." told to climb he did so.

Just then the bear advanced.

"De Lawd sabe me, I'se gone dis time!" and his hymn when he felt the tree suddenly shake. and I won't leave the town until I make a stake, Jeremiah made a boit for the nearest tree and He looked down, and nearly lost his hold from went up it like a squirrel, fat as he was.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Sam had told Jeremiah John that he would find upwards. The next day, when Sam came out from break- a bear skin out in the woods and that coon went He forgot all about his cramped leg, the small-

Our hero forgot to mention, however, that the "Do you wanter know how to make that show bear was at present occupying his skin, but Jere- bear in short order.

He had no doubt that the bear was flerce and tree, and then -That was just what Sam did want to knew, but savage and eager for human blood, as were all the bears he had ever heard of.

"I se a gone niggah fo' shuah!" groaned the Fortunately that collection of names fell on its "The trouble is, it's too lively for 'em and they frightened coon, and then he made a dash for the broadest part, right on top of a big pile of dry

bear would speedily overtake him, and so he He was pretty well shaken up, however, and gave

He got as far as the first limb and then discover- The fall from the tree had given Bruin a shake, "Indeed?" said Sam, gazing curiously at the ed that if he went very much higher the branches and down he came almost as soon as Jeremiah would break and let him down.

as if he could squeeze into a hole where a ferret looked downward over his shoulder at his savage He scrambled to his feet in a hurry and made off

"Showman, eh?" said Sam, when he had looked "Fo' de lan' sakes, wha' so't ob country am dis, mon came up. whar dey let de wil' beas' go rouh' jes' like dey "Hallo, Jeremiah John, did you find your bear "Yas, I've got a dancing bear, two wolves, a please! Reckin dis am de back woods an' no mis-skin?" asked Sam.

wo'd, ef he got hol' ob me dut time, he chew me all "Golly, how dat fader ob mine kin run!" eried up in lilly pieces, an' don' leabe nuffin' but de but-little Solomon barsting into a laugh. " Reckon he

could knock your business clean out by exhibitin ain' got nuffin' fo' yo' dis mo'nin'. Oh, lawd, oh. dinner then," remarked Peter. my animals to-night. The folks of this town un-lawd, dis am de wors' scrape I eber get in, all my Mr. Bantam now came out, secured the bear and

"Well!" said Sam, who saw a way out of his tree and looking up at Jeremiah with lolling He and they soon came to an understanding and

a difference in your sales, I'll pay all yer expenses which it hung, "g'way dis minuit. De Lawd sabe "Fellow countrymen and sinners," he yelled.

'col'd man in de days ob his inflictium, an' jes intellect.

"There's the bear, an' there's the wolves, an' knock de nonsense out'n dat yer b'ar or ole debba

"Bredren, dis worl' am a grebons place fo' to John Henry was the bear, and when Ike opened trabel in, full ob trubble an' car', wif de ole debbil his cage he walked out and descended a short lad-sen' him messengahs aftah yo' ebery chance he kin git, an' yo' jes' gotter scrabble, or he get hol' Then Ike made him dance and do a lot of other by yo', sho's yo' alibe. G'way dar yo' of critter. Stop a-lookin' at me like dat!

"Bredren, dis am a drefful worl', it am fo' a

" Yo' mus' get up 'arly in mo'nin'. Ef you wanter get away fom sin, An' yo' gotter keep bole eyes open, Ef yo' wanter get away from sin. Yo' mus'n' let de debuil get a chance, Ef yo' wanter keep away f'om sin, Fo' ef he do he make yo' dance, So yo' bettab keep away fom sin. "Jes' grab right ho" ob de gospul club, Ef yo' wanter keep away f'om sin, An' gib de ole debbil a awful rub. Dat's howter get away fom sin. Jes' climb de tree ob faif an' pra'r, Ef yo' wanter get away fom sin. Fo' de debbil kean't foller yo' up dar. An' yo's boun' ter get away f'om sin."

So absorbed was Jeremiah in his song that he "Gorrymighty ! reckon I git it afo' somebody else never stopped to think what effect it might have upon the enemy below.

Away went that coon, and in a few minutes If the devil couldn't climb a tree, the bear could, and that is just what he was doing at that precise

and he and Peter talked things up, long after they a big brown bear standing on his hind legs withhi who was concealed behind a tree, told him what to do.

"Fo' de lan's sake, de boss neber said de skin He was used to elimbing, and the instant he was

Jeremiah had just finished the second verse of

fright. There was his enemy coming after him, and al-

ready almost in reach. Poor Jeremiah let out a whoop that aroused the

echoes for miles around, and gave a sudden leap

ness of the upper limbs, and everything else. He only knew that he must get away from that

Up he went like a rocket and into the top of the

Well, and there he was like the darky chasing the 'possums.

He felt something drop.

What did drop was Jeremiah John Joseph Abraham, and all the rest of him.

don't understand it. You shoot clear over their nearest tree and began climbing it with more leaves, which Ike Bantam had scraped together to

a grunt that even the bear could not have improv-

"Lor' sukes I" he yelled, " dere am dat ole deb-

with all possible speed just as Sam, Peter and Solo-

Jeramiah never stopped to answer questions but

which is good enough, too good for them, in fact." There sat the bear on his hannehes close to the utes.

tongue and longing eyes, now and then uttering a the traveling caravan was taken into town and

"Good!" cried Sam. "Where are your animals? him fo' sho'! Let me see them."

"Clar' to massy, of I git out'n dis trubble alibe from Washington down, and which so tickled your The stranger, who cow said his name was Ike I neber do nuffin' agin. I neber sass de boss an' I taney last night, we will exhibit the wonderful col-Bantam, led the way just out of town to a strip of neber tech arjint sperrits, neber. Oh, deah, oh lection of living wild animals brought from the

the stow had blown away: "Les' pray, bredren. Oh, Lawd, come right yer wild bear of the forest, brought to a state of de-The Bantam opened a door at the rear end of the lis bery minnit an' sen' dat ole debbil b'ar a kitin' cility by man's sagacity and unwavering perseverwagon and Sam saw a number of pens or cages on fas' as he kin kite. Oh, Lawd, 'member dis po' ance, a living monument of the power of the human

"We have also the bloodthirsty, man-eating He could not sell anything after that, and so he ship with him, but as that juvenile moke would wolf, captured by the intrepid hunter, Mr. Bantam, shut up early, and went to the hotel with Peter to expect some remuneration for the work he perat great personal risk and in peril of his life, and reckon up the profits.

goats, the performing mule, the educated cat and all you can. I'm going to get out in the morn-out. the intelligent dog, all combining the grandest ing." show for the price on the globe.

the rest of our great show last night, and there- He heard atterward that some of the old settlers chew one of Jeremiah's ears, and the other seemed fore we will repeat the whole business and give had expressed a desire to mob him, and also that desirous of stepping on the coon's big feet. away full directions with every joke so that you Bantam did a good business in the place, and took "Hi dar, yo' Injun! Wha' yo' bout? Can' yo' can't help understanding them. Then, of course, out considerably more than Smart & Co. had. keep 'till a minnet? Get off my foot, yo' clumsy our immense sale will be sure to attract you, and Sam had had enough of the backwoods, and he big beas'! Ef I take de whip to yo', guess yo' stop I'll bet that if we went into a ten acre lot we would now struck four or five lively towns one after the o' dat! G'long wif yo', animile! Don' yo' get be sure to fill it."

old Rip Van Winkles and was lost, but they could most a city in fact, the day before St. Patrick's day, and Jeremiah John mounted the box, gathered the understand the animals and at night the hall was He found the place overrun with Micks, for there ribbons in his big paw and drove in triumph out packed.

Sam very wisely started off with his sale, re-loads of Irishmen had come in from all the towns Neither Sam, nor Peter, nor Solomon had seen versing the general order of things for this occa-round about to take part in the celebration. Sion.

grangers if he gave them the show first, and so he up every yard of green ribbon he could lay his He drove to the principal square and found a resorted to a little bit of stratagem.

up a few little articles for sale, just to stimulate Pat and Dan and Mike and Honora to Picking out a good place on the edge of the sidethings a trifle.

"Every lady who buys a cake of our non-com- Fenian protherhood. reserved seat to the exhibition of trained wild ani- the terriers, and Sam and Peter both wore big a qualitath fo' good seats, long as de 'cession mais shortly to follow.

neckties and rosettes of the same emerald hue.

"To every male member of this collection of Then Sam started in with an eye for business. front seat.

don't suppose you do, you don't look like it, you Every lady ought to have one." than candy or sponge cake, and by so doing ob- to hardware merchants. tain a front seat to witness these wonderful ani- Solomon was kept busy passing in the dimes and Presently the blare of trumpets, the roll of mals.

"Here you go now, for our splendid pocket- seissors look sick cutting off the ribbon. knives. Every boy who buys one gets a seat, ten "Now, then, here you are with our elegant nickel- the parade was coming. give you a seat check for nothing.

"Pocket handkerchiefs, three for ten cents and because it's worth its weight in gold and can't be men, an' keep yo' new hats f'om bein' squashed." a seat in the rear given away for nothing. While beat. Here they go now!"

It made a difference, the coming of the procession, and Jeremiah's offer was now favorably constraints.

And they did go, for a fact, every Irishman in the sion, and Jeremiah's offer was now favorably considered. a seat in the rear given away for nothing. While beat. Here they go now!" you want I will warble.

"Oh, come to our great wild beast show, See the jimjams of old Mexico, The apes who cut capers, The slambangs in curl papers, And the elephant from Ohio. Here's the kangaroo from Japan, And the thingumbob black and tan, The cats with blue faces, And all the sweet graces Of the Howdoos of Yucatan. We've the crocodile from the Nile, And the flimflam with his style, The bulldog so fancy, The grinning chimpanzee, And others that rake in the pile. So come to our great atonkey show, See the zugzugs from Borneo, Watch the gentle bullfrogs, ne . And the gushing wogwogs,

For you'll see 'em before you go." to sell them than nothing, and sticking those back- have had more to dispose of. Woodsmen well into the bargain.

he gave away as fast as he sold anything, but not made room for other and newer goods. until then.

managed to do a good business.

saw that there were a lot of boys and girls to be over and the town will be full of people." provided for, and he determined to rope them in "And some of the people will be full as well," also.

woys and girls at five cents each." tickets, and those who have none must go out square, and there would be a great many people This was Jeremiah's little speculation on his You can get a ticket by buying one of these useful anxious to see it. little articles worth five times the price I ask.

"The show is free, and the tickets cost you noth- nothing. ing but you must have a ticket before you can see the show. We don't allow any one to stand, the animals don't like it. Now, then, clear the course." There was some grumbling, but every one of the parade, he might make a good deal of money. those boys and girls had to put up their little five

Some were skipped, of course, but our enter- He determined to put Sam's big wagon to a good cents or get bounced. prising young friend had made a good thing out of use.

and so didn't care. Bekled those woodsmen, and Sam laughed in his the field to himself.

Sam did get out, and early, too, for he was not steeds into harness. "We know that you were just carried away by quite sure how the people might feel toward him. One of the leaders evinced a determination to

other and did a rushing trade.

Sam's sareasm went right over the heads of those Finally he lighted upon a good-sized town, al- However, the harnessing was at last completed. was going to be a big parade the next day and of the yard.

When Sam heard of this he made a raid upon It didn't matter if the hotel people did see him, He knew he wouldn't get a cent out of those every dry goods and fancy store in town, buying for they would think it was all right anyhow.

hands on. "Now, then, ladies and gents, I'm going to put The announcement of a free show brought every parade when it should come along.

powder for a quarter we will give a ticket for a est little tool you ever saw, the patent reversible offer. fire-at-both-ends, Hibernian can-opener, sold for The procession had not arrived yet, by the way.

crowd buying one as long as they lasted.

When these gave out, toilet soap tied with green Half a dozen Hibernian ladies and gentlemen were put up.

The green ribbon was the bait that made the behind him. things sell, and Sam didn't have a single small Then for ten cents each other places were proarticle to dispose of long before ten o'clock.

anything, and the greenhorns gobbled them up as Jeremiah increased his revenue by three or four

said Sam, "and you all want to look your best, great excitement. play us the latest French march."

Peter, Solomon and Jeremiah played "St. Pat-wild. rick's Day," and the green ribbons went a flying. By closing up time Sam had sold or given away smithereens!"

Then Sam rattled off his small wares, preferring every inch of ribbon, and would have been glad to "Hooroo for Oireland an' St. Pathrick!"

He had had a lot of checks made out, and these that had been cluttering up his wagon, and so thinking of the horses, along came Sam and Peter.

Everybody in the crowd wanted to see the ani-Sam to Peter, "and if the weather is good we'll mals and to get the best sea's, and in that way Sam take the wagon out into the square and do a big

When he had sold all the grown folks tickets, he "Right you are, Samuel. The parade will be

going to sell these ear muffs and lace tidies to the Joseph Abraham Isaac, determined to go into a looking at the St. Patrick's Day parade. little speculation on his own account.

"Mr. Pocket will pass around and take up the Schare, and there would be a great many people. This was I looking at the parade.

He knew the ropes pretty well by this time.

That's where his speculation came in. If he could provide good seats for people to see along came Sam Smart and Peter Pocket.

He could not hire windows or anything of that sort, but there was still a way.

Sam and Peter were busy making plans for the Sam carried a light care in his hand and now,

First he thought of taking Solomon into partner- "Now!" said Sam.

formed, his father thought best to do without him.

will exhibit them free and for nothing.

Bantam was satisfied with five dollars, and all Shortly before the time of the forming of the pro-"Come and see the comical monkeys, the miss-the more so when Sam said:
ing links of the human species, also the funny "Now, Mr. Bantam, the field is yours. Work it them to the wagon without assistance, and drove

It was not an easy job getting those restive

'nuff to eat? Stop chewin' my ear off!"

him and he was all hunky.

throng of people already gathered to witness the

the hali making it look like an uprising of the walk, he stood up, looked around and shouted: "Heah yo' are, folkses, de very bes' place to see bustible, flowing toilet soap for ten cents gets a Jeremiah's green and gold uniform had caught de p'rade, nuffin' to intahfeah wif de wiew an' only

lasts." At first there seemed to be no disposition on the museum freaks who purchases a package of tooth "Here you are, ladies and gentlemen, the handi-part of the public to accept Jeremiah's generous

"If you don't want to clean your teeth, and I ten cents and a yard of green ribbon thrown in. "Now's yo' chance, g'men an' ladies, de bery bee' place in de hull city to see de 'cession. On'y a ean feed it to the animals, who consider it nicer The way those can openers went was a caution quahtah for a 'served seat to see de hull bizness!"

passing out the tools, while Peter made a pair of drums, the fluttering of plumes, the waving of banners and the glittering of steel announced that

cents is all we ask. The show is free, but the seats plated Irish match safe, to be carried in the vest "Heah yo' are, de last chance to see de cession. cost money, or, rather, if you buy our goods we pocket, and sold for ten cents; a rosette of green On'y a quatah to see de hull ting. Step right up ribbon chucked in. I call it an Irish match safe yer, ladies, an' awoid de crush. Get up hean, ge'-

It made a difference, the coming of the processidered.

ribbon, shoe paste, tooth powder, corn salve, stove occupied the best seats at a quarter a head, and blacking, fire lighters, and cards of collar buttons two Irish gentlemen being on Solomon's seat, three in Jeremiah's usual place, and three or four more

vided, some beside the driver, two or three on the The big things were then baited with green wheels, while one agile youth bestrided the top sashes, green parasols, green table covers and green and held on by the wings of the big spread eagle.

fast as they were thrown on the market.

"You all want to go to the parade to-morrow," dollars, and felt proportionately happy.

Then along came the procession, and there was

Here's you fine, extra quality satin or silk ribbon The horses, the brass band, the green regalia,

for a cent a yard and good measurement. Peter, the fluttering banners, and the regular marching of the boys from the "owld sod," just set people

"Hooroo! That bates the farth of July all to

Right in the midst of it, when Jeremiah had his He had also cleaned out a lot of small wares head turned looking at the procession, and never

made room for other and newer goods.
"To-morrow night we'll catch 'em again," said saw!"

"Speculating a little on his own account, is he?" "What nerve!"

"You want to give him a lesson." "That's just what I'm going to do, my boy."

CHAP HER XXIV.

"Now, I am going to clear the hall of those who ling," that enterprising coon, Jeremiah John Sam's hig warren helding on the front seat of have no tickets," he shouted, "but first I am ing," that enterprising coon, Jeremiah John Sam's big wagon, holding the reins loosely and

There also sat a dozen or more Irishmen and

own account, and Sam knew nothing about it. Jeremiah John had not lived in a big city for That coon had sold reserved seats from which to

view the parade, and had put the proceeds thereof in his own pocket. While the procession was passing, however,

Sam caught on the nig's little scheme at once. "I'll teach that coon a lesson," he remarked to Peter.

"It's about time he had one, I think," returned Peter.

The animal show wasn't good for much, but it evening campaign, and Jeremiah, therefore, had without being seen by Jeremiah, he walked up to the leaders while Peter stood by the pole horses.

with his little stick.

Peter gave the pole horses a slap at the same out fo', an' dere he cotch me. moment.

jumped ahead about six feet.

been done.

Micks to fall off the wagon into the street,

guide books, one on top of the other.

a jiffy, and a more mixed up lot of Micks you never I fink mos' jes' now is bodder take de Irish." SHW.

The boy, straddling the eagle, went off a-flying very excitedly. and landed on the stomach of a fat alderman who hadn't been on the wagon at all.

Jeremiah grabbed the reins, and thought he had

prevented a dangerous runaway.

"Whoa dar, yo' Injuns!" he cried to the horses. "Wha' yo' 'bout dar? I come down an' kick de nonsense out'n yo' befo' yo' know it!"

themselves up, and to threaten Jeremiah with "Co'se dey is," said Jeremiah, "an' I seed de vengeance dire.

They shook their fists at him and uttered all sorts of threats.

"Be heavens, av I get up there to yez, ye sun-ter fo'git it, yo' undahstan." burned gorilla, I'll break the jaw aff ye?"

a babboon till I jump on yer neck!"

"Give me back me quarther, ye naygur thafe, could stop myse'f." or I'll have the lah on yez, begob!"

money fur nuthin !"

vilyan, an' I'll pull the jaw aff yez?"

that's phat it is, me byes!"

Nivir." adt stamment to arest adv

"Down wid the paygur! Be heavens we'll capture the chariot an' see the hull parade."

From threats and shaking of fists the indignant tah wha' dey do.' reserved senters went to blows.

They were full of wrath, mixed with old rye, and considered that they had been grossly full-grown shingle, that he had been hurt while yo' undahstan'?" swindled.

Money had been extorted from them and then they had been dumped into the street.

If it was a free country, what right had anybody else to breathe if they said they mustn't.

Consequently Jeremiah's position became a dangerous one.

The Micks were not satisfied to resume their seats.

No, they must avenge their wrongs on the colored aristocrat who had made them pay to witness he was able. their own glorious parade.

With this determination they went for that coon came Sam and Peter. red hot.

make life a weary, waste wilderness for him.

They blacked his eyes, they swelled his nose, they cut his cheeks, tore his clothes, threw mud on his stockings, made a cuspidor of his hat, walked on his spinal column and turned him into of the stable this morning without permission?" a busted up community generally.

While they were doing all this Sam jumped on Did yo' know dat dey had been stolen?" the box, Peter climbed up behind, and away went wagon and horses toward the head of the processiou.

Sam drove past everything, and rode in front of get dem back again." the grand marshal himself.

that monster snowflakes were flying about.

"Anything for business," said Sam, with a laugh, an' 'mos' killed me, dey did." still leading the procession.

gorgeous peddler's wagon in front of them, and dem I'ishmens, an' dey walk all ober me, an' aftah beaters that can't be beat and all sold for a song. presently Sam drove off down a cross street and all I lose de hosses an' de waggin." let the procession have entire possession of the "Ah!" road.

it out of Jeremiah to satisfy their vengeance, anybody I eber seed. De idee ob comin' an' hard work, but our articles are all good and sold pounded him until the procession had passed, and takin de team right out ob de stable." then they left him.

They did not want to miss the review before the mayor, otherwise they would have been hammer-ax me ter do dat fo' dem."

ing that poor moke when night fell.

They followed the parade, and then Jeremiah got up, felt himself all over to see if any of him were missing, and then looked around for the wagon and horses.

They were gone, of course.

"Goodness me, de waggin an' hosses am done shop." stole! Wha' I gwine ter do now I wondah?"

He had not seen Sam, and thought, of course, with an air of extreme innocence. that the angry crowd had run away with his team and wagon.

"Dey tol' me dey was gwine ter do it, but I didn' Oh, boss, neber tol' a lie in my life! I'se a when I see um?

The whole team gave one sudden dash and wided de waggin don' come back, but mebbe de you and make a white man of you. Now get out I'ishmans get tiahed ob totin' it roun' town an' or I'll kick you down-stairs." Then they were stopped, but the mischief had bring it back afo' de boss miss um. Ef dey do den Poor Jeremiah went away, feeling very sad. I'se all right."

The sudden start caused every one of those Thus musing he made his way sadly back to the could have learned the truth, unless Solomon had hotel, where he found Solomon sitting on the steps. blabbed.

moke, opening his eyes very wide.

"I done tol' yo' what I fink, son, an' ef yo' ax Grabbing the young coon by the collar, Jeremiah de waggin an' de hosses, right out'n de stable."

"Yo' don' say?"

Jeremiah John Joseph had an idea.

"Yas'r, to' dey ain' dere now an' de boss donno Meanwhile the Irishmen had begun to pick nuffin' 'bout it, an' I reckon dey's done stole."

fellahs wha' steal um."

"Sakes alibe, fader, am dat so?"

"Eberyting I says is so, son, an' I don' wan' yo' "Yas, fader, I 'member dat."

"Come down here, ye currully-headed misfit av "I run aftah de tieves, son, but I couldn' cotch um, an' I got run ober by a lot ob waggins befo' I dem on yo' skin, yo' heedless critter!"

"Lor' sakes, fader, yo' do look all broke up fo' "It's a put-up job, begorrah, an' we've ped our a fac'. It am a wondah yo' wasn't killed."

"So it am, son, so it am, but that shows wha' Jeremiah whacked away till the sweat ran, and "Wait till I get yez down our sthreet, ye black comes ob doin' yo' duty by de boss. I didn' car' then he said: nuffin' bout bein' runned ober, ef I could fotch "Dere now! Hope dat'll be a lesson fo' yo' as "It's another outrage an poor ould Oireland, back de hoss an' waggin, but I couldn' do it aftah long as yo' lib."

"Air we always to be throdden undher fut? "Well, fader, I reckon de boss an' Marse Petey bing his smarting flanks, when he remarked: gubs yo' suffin' fo' dat when dey fin' it out."

"Mebby dey will, son, mebby dey will, but folks when' I ain' done nuffin?" don' allus get deir rewahds in dis worl', no mat- "Yas, yo' hab, yo' done tol' de boss I took out

Jeremiah then impressed strongly upon Solo- "Didn'."

"Yo' 'membah dat ef de boss ax yo' anyting?" he minnit, an' fin' de hosses put up."

"Yas, fader, I 'membah dat."

likely to fo'git it I took de shingle to yo' now, so's fellahs had broke yo' jaw, dat's what I do. I'm to gib yo' mem'ry a hist."

his garments, brushed, washed and scrubbed him- "Well, dat's a' right. I gits squar on him fo"

He had just made his reappearance when along good's anybody else."

They yanked him of his box and proceeded to did not know, not having been to the barn since he did better still. his interview with Solomou.

"Jeremiah," said Sam.

"Yas'r," promptly answered the coon.

"I war jes' gwine ter speak ob dat myse'f, boss.

"Ah, indeed?"

an' I had de greates' time yo' eber seed tryin' ter such a good one again.

"You did?"

done it on'y a hull gang ob dem fellahs sot onto me prices.

"Well, you do look pretty well broke up."

"And harness up, too?"

"Yas'r, an' ha'ness up, too. Wondah dey didn'

"Pretty cheeky, wasn't it?" "Yas'r. Neber see sech cheek." "Ithink I have, Jeremiah."

"Dat so, boss?"

"Yes. I think your cheek takes the cake and the ovens and the counter, and the whole bake!

"I ain' got much cheek, boss," said Jeremiah,

"Oh, yes, you have, to stand there and tell me such lies."

raley tink dey would. What shell I tol' de boss membah ob de chu'ch! Why, boss, ef I cotch dat boy of mine tellin' lies, I jus' skin him alive."

Then he hit the horse nearest him a sharp crack 'Ef I say de hosses done run away wif me, den "Jeremiah, you're the biggest liar I ever saw. he wanter know wha' business I had de waggin You can give Eli Perkins points on lying. You took the team and let out seats to those Micks to look at "I'se gotter make up some good 'scuse, per- the parade. If I catch you doing it again, I'll skin

He could not think of any way by which Sam

Out they went, sans ceremonie as they say in the "Oh, fader, what yo' fink?" cried that young He determined to interview that son of his forth-

Everybody but Jeremiah went off that wagon in "I done fink a good many tings, son, but what First he procured a trunk strap and then he went out to the stable.

"Oh, fader, wha' yo' fink?" cried Solomon again There he found not only Solomon, but the wagon and team as well.

me agin I take de bigges' shingle I kin fin' to yo'." threw him across his knee and proceeded to limber "Oh, fader, what yo' tink, somebody done stole up that strap by whacking Solomon's rear therewith.

"Fo'git what I tol' yo', will yo'?"

Whack !

"Tol' de boss I took de horses, hey?" Whack!

"An' aftah I press it on yo' min' dat dey was stole?"

Whack !

"Yo'm de mos' fo'gitful boy I eber see, dat's what yo' is." Whack !

"Ef I kean't press t'ings on yo' min' I press

Whack!

The whacks and the remarks came so fast that Solomon had no breath for remonstrance.

Solomon limped away to a safe distance, rub-

"Like ter know wha' fo' yo' lick me like dat,

de hosses."

mon's mind, partly by the repeated mention of a "Don'yo' tell any mo' lies, or I lick yo' agin,

trying to prevent the theft of Smart & Co.'s team. "Neber tol' him nuffin'. Jes' come yere dis

"Look out, son, how yo' tol' me any mo' lies." "Ain' tol' nuffin'," blubbered Solomon, "Yo'm "Bery well, see dat yo' do. Ef yo' fink yo'm a nasty ole niggah, yo' is, an' I jes' wish dem Irish

ljes' gwine ter run away de fus' chance I git." "Oh, I 'membah it fo' shuah!" "H'm, reckon I lick dat boy fo' nuffin' dis time," Then Jeremiah went off, pinned up the rents in mused Jeremiah, when Solomon had dusted.

self, and got rid of the marks of the affray as far as de maulin' dem Sain' Patrick fellahs gub me. Gotter git eben wif somebody, an' dat boy am's

That night Sam did an even larger business than The horses had been put up, but this Jeremiah on the previous one, and the next, being Saturday,

On Monday he left town, and set up in another place eight or ten miles away, where he remained for three or four days, finishing up the week with "How comes it that the horses were taken out small towns where he stayed a single night, that being as long as he could afford to stay.

"Now, then, fellow citizens," Sam would shoul "this is the one great opportunity of your lives. I shall remain here but one night, and if you don't "Yas'r; dey was stole by dem paradin' I'ishmens, catch onto your chance this time you'll never get

"Don't regret all your lives that you didn't buy of me when you could, but step right up this even-Peter scattered handbills by the hundred till the "Yas'r. I runned aftah dem an' did my bery ing and encourage trade, do a virtuous action and air was full of them, and one would have thought bes' to recober de team, an' I reckon I would ha' send me away happy. Everything going at panie

"You'll find clothes-wringers that'll wring out your clothes and almost put 'em on the line. Sew-The Irishmen could not but laugh at having that "Deed I is, boss. Dey was mo'n fibe hund'd ob ing machines that a child can handle, and egg-

"Washing becomes a pleasure when you use our soap, shaving is a positive luxury when you "Reckon yo' bettah offah a rewa'd fo' dem, raise our razors to your mugs, shaving mugs of The indignant sons of Ireland who were taking boss. Dem I'ishmen hab got de mos' cheek ob course, and shaving the mugs of some fellows is at ante bellum prices. Don't let these hard words frighten you, they are not loaded.

"Before the sale, come and see the comical variety entertainment, which is free, but worth more than you pay for most shows that come this way. and don't you forget to remember it. Now, if you'll listen a few moments I will tell you what I've heard.

" I've heard that there's going to be a big fight Between Johnny Bull and China;

That the railroads are going to let people ride free. From Maine down to South Carolina; That the women are all going to vote in the fall, That there won't be any more taxes;

That the politicians are going to the wall And there'll be no more grinding of axes. If you want to know when it's all coming about, And when the good time to begin is

I only can tell you, I don't want to sell you, I heard it all from Maguinness.

"I've heard that Jim Blaine is out of the race

That he doesn't want to be president; That old Kaiser William has thrown up his crown

And will be of this country a resident; I've heard that the bootblacks are going to France In order to get some more polish;

That cigars and tobacco are going to be free

And the tax upon gin be abolished. There are many things more that are coming to pass If I told you I never would finish, So do not dispute it or try to refute it For I heard it all from Maguinness."

well settled again, Sam used to carry on his sales wictim to dat trubble an' I done fo'got all about in the open air and not in halls, as he had done it." stead talling in the sending to the seal of the land. during the cold weather, and found it more to his Then Jeremiah took off his skates and concluded all that he has become a society masher, a lah-de-

One day toward the end of March Sam and his what they were cracked up to be. party lighted upon a city of considerable size where our young friends had to hustle to make things go.

put on more lugs than a backwoods congress-saying good-by to his new friends, or asking them man.

coons, and was being shown all the honors. lamps, and rattling off one thing after another as "Hab yo' got anyfing to do dis ebenin'?" said fast as he could put 'em up.

one dandy coon by the name of Rufus Morning- "Ah, there, here comes the king of Africa!" star.

melted long ago.

neber heah of dat kin'?" but a built a said

"Did I eber heah ob dat kin'? Why, chile, whar crowd without having to do anything. yo' spose I was brung up? Why, bress yo' haht, Sam had other views, and he proceeded to make yer." I used to take de gais roun' in de bigges' rink in them known. New Yawk, an' show 'em how to skate."

cream ob col'd soci'ty goes. I'll interdooce yo' to sing loud enough to be heard in the next town. some ob de toniest gals in de hull city."

glad to show 'spect to de ladies."

and the darkies went into it with more vim than gross.

any one else. There wasn't a white person to be seen in the rink, though there were all shades and styles of

wigs, from black to cafe au lait. Now Jeremiah, for all his boasting, had never had on a pair of roller skates in all his life, but of

course he wasn't going to say so. He had once skated on the ice and supposed that it was all the same on rollers.

He paid a boy five cents to put on his skates and

then started off. He had just got into the ring and was going around with the gang when away went his heels and he gat down with force enough to split the planks.

"Wha' fo' yo' run agin me?" he asked a tall, thin, dyspeptic looking coon who had fallen over

him, being unable to stop. "Wha' fo' yo' fall down right in de middle ob de flo'? Ef yo' donno how ter skate, why don' yo' go

off by yo'se'f an' learn." "Reckon yo' kean't teach me nuffin'," sputtered Jeremiah, struggling to his feet, "an' I don' wan'

none ob yo' sass." "Why don' yo' git out ob de way den?" Jeremiah looked at the lathy coon and snorted. If it came to a fight he reckoned he could par-

alyze that coon without half trying. "Wha' yo' do if I do git in de way, h'm?" he

asked, with a touch of scorn. "I wipe up de flo' wif yo', dat's wha' I do!" "Jes' try it once!" and Jeremiah glided out in

front of the lanky nig. He didn't do very much gliding-at least, not

"Dut make de secon' time yo' knock me down," "Patent revolving coffee-grinders going for "No, Marse Petey, you couldn'. Nobody kin do on skates. was polishing the planks with his flat nose.

he muttered as he got up.

darky.

that coon at one swipe. landed him on his back he changed his opinion.

mile a minute.

The heavy weight was of the female persuasion, and you'll never regret it, if you live to be a thou-dies." and, of course, brought it down.

make them.

The husband came along at that very moment, that he would not have to go to the poor-house and there is no knowing what might have hap-that night at least.

Fought yo' knowed how ter skate?" he said to business hours. Jeremiah.

When the weather was beginning to get pretty malaria dis ebenin' and it turns my head. I'se a Jeremiah. He has broken out in a fresh spot."

Sam was used to that, however, and rather en- JEREMIAH did not stay very long in the skatingjoyed it then otherwise. Jeremiah John began to feel at home again, and removed his skates, managed to sneak off without to call and see him. The man resito strangith

He hadn't been in town two hours before he He left the rink and went off to where Sam was struck up an acquaintance with a lot of dandy addressing the crowd in the glare of his gasoline

shouted Sam, as he saw Jeremiah approaching. "I specs I'se at liberty, sah, ef dey's anyting "He has been specially engaged to play the bugle, gwine on, Mistah Rufus. Am dey any balls or and here he comes. Step right up here, Your pahties gwine on in town?"

Pahties gwine on in town?" "No, sah, but de col'd ladies an' ge'men gib a you are."

skatin' entahtainment in rink."

De sende density that here and be stated as a stated and be stated as a sta "Whar yo' git yo' ice, chile. De ponds done invitation from the boss, and he stepped up as re-

"Dis am a rollah skatin' rink, sah. Didn' yo' He had had enough of skating rinks, but he

Jeremiah took his trumpet, Peter got his cornet, "Dis am a high-toned affair, an' on'y de tery Solomon banged the big drum, and Sam began to

After he had warbled about seventeen verses, "Dat's right, chile, dat's right. I'se allus bery and he saw signs of weariness on the faces of the

When evening came Jeremiah shook the show, "I will now recite you a touching little poem. put on his loudest clothes, met Mr. Morningstar Get your handkerchiefs ready, and if you haven't by appointment, and went off to the rink. any, I'll sell you a choice lot, three for a quarter, pastime of roller skating was at its height in all of the finest linen, your initial worked in the this town, though it had died out in many places, corner, and a bottle of cologne given with every

" Only a flower,' the maiden said, As she gently bowed her golden head, Only a rose, but, oh, what bliss, He gave it to me with a loving kiss. 'Only a nickel,' the lover remarked, As he thought of her he long had sparked, Only five-pence, it isn't much loss, And pretty soon I'll be the boss.

"Only a parson, and only a ring. Only a church, and how the bells ring, Only a wedding and only a trip, Only a pocket-book awfully sick, Only a little wife, loving and meek, Only a clerk on ten dollars a week, Only to live on an upper fiat, Last year's overcoat, last year's hat.

" Only a clerk,' the young wife said, Scrubbing the floor and making the bed; Twas said in a tone of dolcrous pitch, She always thought the man was rich. 'Only a clerk, the wretch superficial, His diamonds were only artificial; Only a broom across his back And make him sit on a full-grown tack.

" Only a shop girl, nothing more." Muttered he as he walked the floor. 'I thought to swipe a bully boodle, How could I have been such a noodle? But never mind, I'll have some joy When I'm the dad of a bouncing boy." Only a year with a rush and a winrl, And then disappointment, 'Only a girl.'"

"That fellow was sold, ladies and gents, but if In fact he smelt a very big mouse. you buy of me you won't be sold; the goods will "Sorry to hear he's so bad, Solomon, I am in-The first thing he knew he took a header, and be, however, and at the lowest price. Step up and deed. Guess I'd better go and see him. I may be

"Den dis is tree times," said the sick-looking knife-sharpener, nutmeg-grater, baby's rattle, or "Well, there's no harm in seeing him before he Jeremiah had fondly fancied that he could kill used in all climates. Can tell coffee from beans, "Yas dey is, Marse Petey, yas dey is," cried

He went sliding over that floor at the rate of a bustle, mouse-trap and flour sieve combined, noth- go up m'ownse'f an' de Lawd knows I tinks de He fetched up against a heavy weight on rollers, cle ever introduced into the household, sells like "Oh, I guess I'll take the risk. It would never

and when she fell down she got as mad as they sand years old. A child can work it, and it only to see bear bear bearing mis costs half a dollar, cheap as dirt." we want

"Wha' fo' yo' do dat, yo' clumsy nigger?" she Sam had his crowd down pretty fine, and if he cried. "Specs yo' done it a puppus. Wait till my did not sell them one thing then it was another, husban' come 'long. He pay yo' fo' dat." and before the evening was over he felt assured

pened to poor Jeremiah, had not Mr. Rufus Morn- "What do you say to sticking her out here for ingstar also happened along at the same time. another night, Petey?" he said to his partner after

"I think we ought to work it, Samuel."

"So I do, so I do, chile, but I'se suffin f'om Guess we will, but you must keep your eye on "What is it?" and red entire "ast I send ob the

"Why, from being a member of the church and taste as well as more conducive to big receipts. that there were some society crazes that were not dah coon, a man about town and a heavy swell. we want to keep him away from it."

"I'll do it if I have to kill him." "That settles it. He doesn't go to the ball."

next day Jeremiah came to Sam in the af-

"Boss, I wanter ax yo' a question."

"Got a new conundrum, eh?" "No, sah, not prezackly that. I ain' been no-

whar fo' a good while, boss." "Well?" " no ment heart bearay non emitelones "An' I fort mebbe yo' hadn't no 'jections to my

gwine off to pra'r meetin' dis ebenin."

"Oh, you want to go to prayer meeting?" " Yas'r."

"Sure it isn't a skating rink?"

"No, san. Neber go to sich drefful places." Solomon had boned on the old man, and that's how Sam knew.

"Oh, you don't?" dola vilulus or now in

"No, sah." "Ain't taking in a cake walk?"

"No, sah."

"Nor a raffle for a crazy quilt?"

"No, sah. I'se gwine ter pra'r meetin', I tol'

"Just a plain, every-day prayer meeting?" "Dat's all, sah."

"No frills on it?"

"No, sah, jes' plain." of meant distance to the "Well, you can't go." a service on lo della the

Poor Jeremiah had made up his mind that he wasn't going to have any trouble in getting away. He found that he had made a mistake.

"Oh, I say, boss, yo' neber 'fused me befo' when axed yo'. Wha' de mattah now?" "You're not going, that's all," returned Sam,

and that settles it."

"All de same I'se gwine to dat ball ter-night," mused Jeremiah, to himself. "Ef I kean't get up one 'scuse, I'll get up anoder, an' go anyhow."

Peter kept a sharp watch on that coon until supper-time, when he said to Sam:

"I don't think Mr. Jeremiah will get away from us this time, my boy."

"You can't teli, Petey. You've got to watch him every minute. I shan't feel sure of him till I see him on the wagon, driving around to the

"Well, I won't let him get away from me, you can bet." llama uszob a llam no beidalt en nent bus

When it was almost time to hitch up, Peter went around to the stable and found Solomon all alone, and and our four a noun indicate your "Where's your father, Solomon?"

That little coon began to dig his fists into his

eyes and blubber: li benefits and more and maid "Fader am bery sick, Marse Petey. He kean't

go out to-night, an' I reckon ef he eber goes out it'll be a massy." "Your tather's sick?"

"Yas'r, bery sick, wow-wow, too to his bed befo' suppah, didn' eat nuffin', pale as a ghos', bco-hoo-hoo!"

"Why, what's the matter with him, Solomon?" "Donno, 'specs it am consumption. Eberybody say he am a gone coon. Donne wha' I'm gwine ter do now, ef my fader goes. De doctah say he kean't lib till mo'nin'."

The idea of that big coon going off like that struck Peter as very comical and he grinned.

When the coon fetched him one in the neck and buy one, you lose the opportunity of a lifetime. cotch de feber yo'se'f, an' die befo' mo'nin'. It am "Don't forget to invest in our new and improved bery dangerous, sah, bery dangerous. I dassen't

"Mebby I done tell too big a story bout dat, connecting rooms. Fader tol' me dat I was ter tell de boss he was bery Then he rigged up some cords and pulleys, at-an' gib it yo' bum bye." sick, but I reckon I make it too strong. Ain' sick taching them to the gearing of the transformation | Solomon did not make any objection, which no mo'n I be. He wanter go ter de niggah's ball bedstead, and leading them into the next room.

Peter went off and told Sam of this, and the two opposite the bed.

coon in bed.

"Hallo, Jeremiah. Sick, are you?"

night' an' I kean't go roun' wif de waggin?" | coal, and also tacked up others in similar taste.

Donno nuffin', boss; my head am jus' a-tonin' inent position.

the other, and now Sam made a motion and gave with one hand and seeking his heart's blood by supper, and then there was no time to talk to him. Peter another wink.

"You're quite bad, are you?"

"Yas'r, bery bad."

"Let her go, Riley, Gallagher's dead!"

to the foot.

leather shoes.

when they came in. Sam.

"Almost ready to die, ain't you?" added Peter. "Thought you'd lay yourself out so as to save box from his pocket and said: the understaker the job?"

"Well, you're the healthlest looking sick nigger I ever saw."

"Sick enough to go to a ball and dance till morn- "You're quite fond of it, eh?"

ing."

"Let's bounce him."

Poor Jeremiah, taken so suddenly by surprise, de chu'ch." could think of no excuse by which to explain his "Does he do so, Solomon?" being dressed up.

bed, upset it and turned Jeremiah out upon the an' anoder." floor.

"Now, you lazy moke, you can get up and go to boy?" the stable and help hitch up," cried Sam. "It's a "Yas'r, de bes' boy yo' eber see." cold day when you fool me, my dandy coon." "And give your father some of the taffy if he stand, no nothing, in fact, only the room and the

Jeremiah was of the opinion that the weather asks you for it?"

Lucie Jackson, a colored belle whom he had reckon he won' eat it ef I gib it to um, ralely I "H'm! Spec dis would jes' suit a fellah what meant to monopolize all the evening, went off with don'." another coon, and poor Jeremiah felt completely "Solomon, I am afraid you are not adhering suit dis chile fo' a bad cent." crushed.

No, sir, he did not go to the ball, but he did work "Yas, I is, boss; yas, I is. Dat ole man don' car' hung his waistcoat and trousers beside his coat. like a beaver under Sam's direction, and was so no mo' for candy dan a pig do for whiskers; he tired when he went to bed that he didn't know wouldn' eat it if I gub it to 'im."

and then he lighted on half a dozen smaller towns once."

they alighted upon a town, not too big, but just kinds. big enough for business, where there was a new Solomon popped two strawberries, a cherry, a thing, but Sam was satisfied if they didn't prove and began o chew. to be too new. but want dold wind manabal " The manabal

He drove around the place, scattered bills, preach-could make on the stuff. his remaining in the place for some time.

After dinner, as he and Peter were sitting in the it been made free weeks." reading-room, smoking and looking over the newspapers, a sudden bright idea entered that young to ache, he took a piece of the deceptive sweet- bettah go drown hese'll man's head, and he proceeded to give it a name.

April." distook all and total year in west ob tel of rubber.

"We ought indeed." Let us look into his room and see how we can mon with a box of candy in his hand. surprise him." "Wha' yo' got dere, son?"

The hotel was a new one, which had just been "Ain' got nuffin'," cried Solomon, trying to hide uttering a word. finished, and some of the rooms were not fur-the box.

was on the top floor, and was something bigger the stuff, for fear of possible consequences.

and caught him by the collar.

room, and Sam's professional eye lighted on this brought out the box. at once,

The walls were bare, there was no carpet on the not to spen' yo' money fo' dem t'ings?" floor, the one window had a broken pane, and the "Didn' spen nuffin'," whined Solomon. fan-light was as cracked as a piece of old china. boss gub me dat fo' bein' good."

Then away went Peter, and Solomon remarked Sam removed the stand and the chair, and shift- "H'm! he neber gib me nuffln', an' I reckon I'se to himself: ded the bed so that it backed against the door of the as good as mos' folks. Yo' mus'n' ent de hull ob

"Yas, Marse Petey. I'se bery sick. Will yo' After this Sam and Peter decorated the white tell de boss I isn' gwine ter pra'r meetin' ter- walls with several neat pictorial designs in char- thing out of his mouth.

"Why, you're talking to me now?" said Sam, A very graphic cartoon of a gentleman swinging found out what it was very soon. giving Peter a wink. from a crossbeam with a rope around his neck, "Is I? Fo' Gawge! I fort dat was Marse Petey, while he danced a jig on nothing occupied a prom- wusser ebery day. Jes' lemme cotch him aftah dis

roun' and roun', an' I ain' got de strent ob a baby." Near it was a very touching little gem represent- Solomon kept out of the way very wisely, how-Sam was on one side of the bed and Peter on ing a youth in the act of blowing his brains out ever, and Jeremiah saw nothing of him till after

there were drawings of men being blown up with poor Solomon was very much grieved, for he had dynamite, other men being run over by express expected to fool the cook, the chambermaid, the With that those two young fellows grabbed the trains, and still others being chewed up by alliga-clerk and all the stable-hands before he got through. bedclothes and yanked them clean off away down tors, or lions, or other dangerous wild fowl as Bill Sam drove around into the public square at the Shake has it.

There lay Jeremiah on the bed in his very diz- Then, too, there were pictures of coffins, bowie flourish of trumpets. ziest suit of clothes, standing collar and patent knives, skulls, cross bones and daggers, pistols, "Here we are, gents, the great European variescaffolds and reeking bludgeons, the fresco work ty company, imported at great expense, first ap-

"Oho! you're awfully sick, ain't you?" cried the expected trade at night, and did not forget to for cash at remarkably cheap prices." have lots of fun in the meantime.

"Solomon, do you like taffy?"

"Specs 1 do, bery much, boss," answered the and square accounts. young coon, his eyes getting as big as saucers.

"Yas'r, very much, but I don' git bery much ob afford new clothes." it. Fader says I orter sabe my money an' gib it to

"Dunno, Marse Sam. He don' gib me none ob found a light burning in his room, but very little In another minute Sam and Pete grabbed the it. Wha' money I gits I hab to pick up one way else.

"If I give you some candy will you be a good with not very many blankets on it, apparently, but

didn't go to the ball that evening, and Miss gettin ole, Marse Sam, an' his teef am po', an' I hung his coat on the floor.

strictly to the truth."

Finally one morning, it was the first of April, nice-looking candies representing fruits of all and gazed around.

hotel, new houses, new people and new every-pear and a slice of orange into his capacious mouth all.

e chewed the less impression he dat he wuz dead afo' he lef' it."

indications that there would be lets of excuses for he muttered, nearly putting his jaw out of its I tol' im so in de m'onin', shuah's yo' bawn.

meats out of his mouth and examined it.

"I am aware of it, Samuel." He looked around but Sam had disappeared. "And we ought to do something to make things "Well, if I eber did! De boss had been workin' pleasant for Jereminh." a April fool on me! I didn't fink he do dat."

common in country hostelries. de box an' I see you a munchin' suffin'."

It had an ordinary turn-up bed in it, a stand Jeremiah made a grab for that ebony urchin ter do suffin' desprit, dis am de bery place I'd

dis 'cause it'll make yo' sick. I'll sabe it fo' yo'

seemed strange, and Jeremiah walked off.

dis ebenin', dat's wha' de mattah." Then he fixed up a neat little motto on the wall When he got out of sight he proceeded to sample that box of sweets.

went up to Jeremiah's room, where they found that This motto was a cheerful affair, and read thus: The first crunch that he gave caused him to jump three feet.

He had set his tooth on a stone.

"Wow! what am dat!" he yelled, pulling the

The sugar coating had been removed, and he

"H'm! dat boy ob mine am gettin' wuss and an' I wa'm his trousahs fo' him, de little loafah."

means of a dagger with the other. Jeremiah threw the box of candy in the fire, and In order to further excite cheerful emotions so prevented any one else from being soaked, and

usual time, and started in business with a great

He had just finished dressing for the ball when being executed in the highest taste. pearance in this country. An elegant drawinghe heard Sam and Peter coming up-stairs. "I guess that'll do," remarked Sam. "The cir-room entertainment for nothing, no charge for He had had just time enough to get into bed cus is now postponed until this evening." standing room. After the show our great sale, at Sam and Peter then made their preparations for which the finest articles in the market will be sold

Sam got there as usual, and managed to please Meeting Solomon in the afternoon, Sam took a the crowd and rake in the shekels as well, and when he closed up for the night, it took him and Peter quite a little while to count up their cash.

"Not bad for the first of the month, Petey. When the springtime comes, gentle Annie, we can

"And not be obliged to leave our ulsters with our uncle," added Peter.

When Jeremiah went up to bed that night he

There was a plain, every-day bed in one corner,

that was all. There were no chairs, no bureau, no wash-

was decidedly inclement for him, and he got up, "I specs he don' car' fo' sech tings dis days," "Nice so't ob place, dis, fo' a ge'man used to de feeling very sad, and preceded Sam down-stairs. |said Solomon, looking a little dubious. "He am bes' ob eberyting, to sleep in," he remarked, as he

neber knowed what good tings was, but it don'

Then he kicked his boots across the room, and "Cheerful place, dis am, very cheerful, in yo'

min'," he grumbled, turning down the clothes. Whether he was afoot or on horseback. "Perhaps not. Well, as you have been a good "Reckon dis am jes' de so't ob place dat would Sam stayed in the city three or four nights longer, boy, here is some candy, only don't eat it all at make a fellah blow out de gas," he continued, as he got in bed.

where he disposed of a week or more. Sam then gave the little nig a small box full of Then he covered himself up, clear to his neck,

His eye caught the motto over the door. "H'm! dat am de bigges' piece ob mockery ob 'No place like home,' H'm! Dis am de so't ob place dat make a man wish he had a home, or

"Well! ef de boss tinks dis am de kin' ob lodged to the gang from the hotel steps, and saw many "Reckon dat am de toughes' candy I eber ate," ings I'se used ter, he am bery much mistooken, an' indications that there would be lots of excuses for

hinges trying to bite through the stuff. "'Spec's "Jes' like ter cotch de feller what made dem picters! Reckon he'd heah f'om me bery sudden. He tied again, and finally, when his jaws began Et a man ain' got time to do anyfing but dat, he

"No place like home! Why didn' dey put up "Peter, my son," said Sam, "this is the first of He had been endeavoring to masticate a chunk Welcome, an' Call Again, or suffin' inwitin' like?

April." Welcome, an' Call Again, or suffin' inwitin' like? Gorry, ef a fellah stay heah once, he wanter come again de bery nex' night an' kill somebody."

The disgust depicted on that coon's countenance as he lay there and contemplated his cheerful sur-Just then along came Jeremiah and saw Solo-roundings was enough to make a cynic smile.

One look at Jereminh would have been enough to tell you how he felt without the necessity of his

"Nice place to' a ge'man an' a bradder to sleep! nished with that lavishness of expenditure so "Don' yo' try to feel yo' fader dat away. I see Why don' dey put up ' Happy Dreams,' long wif de common in country by common in country by the common in country by the co The room which had been assigned to Jeremiah Solomon did not care to fool his parent with place fo' a man to sleep de night befor he's gwine as on the had been assigned to Jeremiah Solomon did not care to fool his parent with place fo' a man to sleep de night befor he's gwine as on the had been assigned to Jeremiah Solomon did not care to fool his parent with place fo' a man to sleep de night befor he's gwine as on the had been assigned to Jeremiah Solomon did not care to fool his parent with place fo' a man to sleep de night befor he's gwine ter be hung. Reckon de las' man wha' slep' heah than a closet. "Ain' munchin' nuffin', I tol' yo'," he protested, eider killed hisse's or de lan'lord. Est I wanted choose to stay in while I was gettin' ready."

There was a door connecting with the next Then he quickly went through his pockets and However, there seemed to be no help for it and so Jeremiah concluded that he might as well go to "Yo's eatin' candy, is yo'? How of'en I tol' yo'sleep and forget his surroundings in slumber.

Not yet! "Del There were other surprises awaiting him before he could do that.

CHAPTER XXVI.

surroundings and go to sleep.

ideas.

to sleep the bed began to act very strangely.

est regard for the probable feelings of the occu- at last retired and went to sleep without further "Positively the last appearance of our troupe this pant.

miah sat up with a jump.

The bed did not stop, but kept on closing. thing very sudden he would be standing on his came and called him. head inside the bed, or be flattened together, his came and called him. knees in his stomach.

know that he must get out of that at once.

He gave a jump toward the foot of the bed, and fast, and that neither Sam nor Peter were yet up.

the bed, and unable to straighten out either up or my nap out." down.

His head and hands were free, but his knees room door locked and no way of getting in. were doubled under him in a very uncomfortable position.

The motto opposite the bed had suddenly and fast time. most mysteriously changed, and now read:

"APRIL FOOL!"

"H'm! dis am a nice place fo' a gemmen to be," muttered Jeremiah. "Fus' it say 'No place like home, an' aftah dat it am 'April Fool! Putty doin's dis is. Wondah ef dis yer bed eber get back Jeremiah had to haul up his feet. to rights agin?"

It might have done so, for it was not more than half shut up, but just then Sam and Peter suddenly rushed in, put out the gas, and then by the light from the other rooms proceeded to tie up the bed chairs and thought he could finish his nap there. so that it would not come down into place.

They made no noise, and they worked like

what was going to happen. "Who dat? Why don' yo' say suffin'? Take all

get down f'om dis yer bed." wing at was just what they were not going to do,

-owever, whatever else they might do. They took particular pains that he should stay knotting it firmly, so that it might not give away for coons. before they wished it to.

Then they skipped out, and left poor Jeremiah half on his knees and half standing up, a position "Dere don' peah to be no place fo' dem any-

by no means comfortable.

They went out by the other door, locked it, and skipped down-stairs, leaving Jeremiah to enjoy Jeremiah went off to the kitchen where he found I would say when they bore me. his first of April snap as best he might.

Strange to say, Jeremiah did not have a hilariously enjoyable time, and was as mad as could be over the little joke.

Hy hollered and yelled for somebody to come and let him down, but all to no purpose.

He was alone at the top of the house, and if any. body on the lower floors heard him they did not bother to go and see what the fuss was all about.

and at last a chambermaid came along and said: "Stop that hollering. Do you want to wake up

everybody in the house?" ing his eyes.

"Why don't you come down yourself, you old dis."

tiahed mos' ter deff." tell him so fo' me de nex' time yo' sees him."

up in de bed an' I kean't get out nor do nuffin'." by trick beds or any such nonsense.

bed. Guess vo' must be foolin'?"

and that was all she cared about. facturing town about twenty miles off.

demanded. "If you hadn't done that I might have operatives and everybody else was on the street.

There ain't any thieves in the house." Solomon beat the drum as though he had a spite we'll own the town." yo' bus' de do' in?" cornet.

stay there now till morning."

Then she went away and poor Jeremiah's heart dressed the mob in a top-story voice as follows: sank.

thump.

regular jack-knife fashion, and without the slight- was going to cut up any more funny business and the square this evening.

When the bed began to do the shut-up act Jere- but as soon as it was day somebody came along counts for my not making a long stop here. with a big bell and rang as though their life de- "Shoe laces strong enough to hang you; suspendpended on it.

He did not altogether know what the trouble mo'nin', dat's sartin," he growled, as he got up. was, turn-up bedsteads being a novelty, but he did would have to wait an hour and a half for breakwould have to wait an hour and a half for break- "Ten dollars reward for the man who can't be

When he got up-stairs, however, he found his sold at a discount.

would sleep in one of the big arm-chairs till break-bumbershoots for farmers and circus tents for

the chairs and composed himself for a nap, when ment while I howl. in came a man with a pail of water and a broom. Swash!

There was no rest for him, however, for the man said the chairs must all go out so that the floor could be scrubbed.

Jeremiah then went out into the hall with the Nixey!

Another man with another pail of water and anbeavers, poor Jeremiah all the time wondering other broom came along in a moment and drove the poor coon away.

Then he went out to the stable, but that also was de money I'be got but fo' Hebbin's sake lemme getting its morning bath, and poor Jeremiah had to get out.

get in, the clerk informing him that it was closed there, fastening a stout rope around the bed, and till after breakfast, and that anyhow it was no place

"Deah me, I wondah what fo' col'd folks was brung into de worl' fo' anyhow?" he remarked. whars."

The clerk had nothing to say in reply to this, and young Solomon toasting his shins by the fire and enjoying the best kind of a time.

That made Jeremiah mad.

"Get up out o' dat, yo' lazy niggah," he cried, "an' let vo' ole fader sit down. Ain' had no mo'n half a night's res' anyhow, an' heah yo' is makin' me stan' up."

"Dev say yo' drawed picters on de wall an' dat yo'se gotter sleep in de stable aftah dis," remarked He kept up a steady yelling for nearly an hour Solomon, "kase yo' don' know nuff to use a decen room right."

"Who tol' yo' dat, son?" asked Jeremiah, open-

"Come in yer an' lemme down an' I'll stop it- "De boss ob de hotel. He say yo'm nuffin' but a sassy nigger an' yo' gotter sleep in de stable aftah.

"I reckon de bes' room he'm got in de hull "Kase I kean't. I'se tied up in de bed, an' I'se house ain' any too good fo' me, son, an' yo' kin

"Well, go to sleep and stop your noise." Sam remained in the place one more night and He just raked in the ducats, and only stopped "Kean't go ter sleep. De robbahs hab shut me Jeremiah had a chance to sleep, being undisturbed

"Open the door then and I'll help you out." The next day Sam made an early start, for he home happy. "H'm! how I open de do' et I'se tied up in de had a considerable distance to travel and wanted to be on the road in good season.

helped you. What's the use of locking the doors. Jeremiah blew a tremendous blast on his bugle, "Didn' lock it 'tall? De robbahs did it. Kean't against it, and Peter made the echoes ring with his

"Yes, and get sacked! No, sir, you'll have to That drew the crowd and then Sam drew rein, the shops." and while all hands sent the dodgers flying, he ad- "Then we'll stay."

Yelling did no good, for even if he did attract at- tramps, you see before you a knight of labor, one day night the boy peddlers seemed to have struck who labors at night to get all the dust we can scrape a regular bonanza, and went to bed feeling like He stayed there half the night, and then Sam up so as to make a more even distribution. When lords.

Jeremiah had fallen into a half doze by this time, "I believe in a fair division, and I'm going to and when the bed fell he awoke with a start. divide the contents of my wagon among this crowd JEREMIAH JOHN, snug in bed in his very cheer- Sam got away without being discovered, for for a fair market value, of course. I couldn't ful room in the new hotel, concluded to forget his Jeremiah was too much astonished to know any-give it away, you know. The golden age has not come to time yet.

Sam and Peter in the next apartment had other "Clar' to goodness, dem ropes done break ob "What I do give away, however, is a first-class deir own 'cord," he muttered, rubbing his head, entertainment, all for nothing. Singing, dancing, Just as Jeremiah concluded that he had better go "Don' see why dey couldn' done it befo', 'stead ob banjo playing, the educated dog and cat, the intelkeepin'a fellah in mis'ry half de night!" ligent mule, the funny mokes and myself, the one The foot began to rise up toward the head in Then he got up, looked at his bed to see if it and only Sam Smart, all at our grand free show in

season, as base ball will soon be here and I am Sam and Peter were indulging in a little wire He thought that he would sleep late the next obliged to leave to play a champion engagement pulling, as it were.

morning, so as to make up for what he had lost, as short stop on the Kalamazulu Nine, which ac-

ers that'll stretch clear around the house and not The bed did not stop, but kept on the house and not The poor coon saw that if he did not do some. After that somebody else came by and pounded break; highly perfumed floating toilet soap that out of your hands; harmonicas that will silence "Fo' goodness sake, I don' git no mo' sleep dis the cats for half a mile when you play 'em; seissors that'll cut anything and a full line of Yankee

induced to buy after witnessing our classical enthen the thing shut up as far as it would.

"I declar' fo' it, et dat ain' too drefful mean," he tertainment and seeing our classical ententies the thing shut up as far as it would.

"I declar' fo' it, et dat ain' too drefful mean," he tertainment and seeing our elegant and extensive There was Jeremiah, partly on his knees, inside remarked. "Guess I go back to bed agin an hab stock of goods, imported, domestic, smuggled, stolen and bought at bankrupt sales; everything

"Silk umbrellas, warranted to keep out the rain; Then he went back to the office and thought he parasols that will set the girls crazy, gingham family parties, all going for a song; and that re-Once more he was out in his calculations. | minds me that I sometimes sing myself, or try to, He had no sooner ensconced himself in one of and if you think you can stand it just wait a mo-

"When we hear of a joke that's been going around, And has run through the funny newspapers, The water went slopping all over the floor and When we think that it's time it was put under ground,

And not vex us with any fresh capers, The thing that we call it, grows on a tree, And wears a brown evercoat, do you see? Chestnut!

" The professional funny man, hardened old sinner, Will sometimes get off an old story. When he's full to the brim with good wine, after dinner, And feels all alone in his glory. If he's told the same yarn too often before, We cry, as we sadly stampede for the door,

"When a married man wanders home late every night, And says that he's been to the louge, Finally he returned to the office but couldn't And on every occasion, no matter how slight, Resorts to the same worn out dodge, It is time that the wives, one and all. did exclaim,

Ard give to such played out excuses the name, Collar outtons! "To the boarding-house keeper, who's seen better days,

To the man going 'round for subscriptions, To beggars, to writers of horse collar plays, To all engaged in deception,

And soon drive them before me: Rats!

Whiskers!

"Come to our great show, and subsequent sale, and you won't have occasion to make use of any of these expressions, for our goods are all of this year's make, and our jokes are the latest crop, just picked, fresh every hour, like old-fashioned molasses candy, and always on tap. Come and see us. Get up, mules. "Int notto prestot cobbns ad?"

That sort of talk caught the town, and the public square was thronged that night when Sam had been on hand a few minutes. mol out mounted it

It was a paying crowd, too, and Peter, Jeremiah and Solomon were kept busy opening boxes, cases and packages and handing out the goods for Sam to sell. THE EASEN THER GIT OF LOTTER YEAT

The sales were larger than they had been for some time, and Sam seemed to be able to dispose of whatever he put up, big or little.

when his stock gave out, finishing up the time with more funny business, and sending the crowd

He and Peter were as chipper as two blackbirds when they retired that night, and both agreed that The girl had tried the door and found it locked, The place where he was bound was a big manu- they had struck it rich.

"The weather improves, don't it, my boy?" anid "What did you want to lock the door for?" she He struck it just at noon, when the mill hands, Sam, as they sat together over a light lunch and a couple of cigars.

"It's far from cold, Samuel. If we keep on

"We're good for the rest of the week, I think." "Easy enough, and Saturday is pay-day in all

The next night's business was better than the "Brother weavers, fellow millionaires and first, and the third was still better, while on Satur-

stole in, cut the ropes and let the bed down with a I get more than I want I'll divide up with you. Every cake of sonp, every box of blacking, all the tooth paste, perfumery, cough mixture and

salve, the last paper of pins, the final dozen collar buttons and the last box of note paper was sold, and larger goods showed a similar clearing

our. sum expected a new lot of stuff at the next town wire he intended to stay, and thither he hied him- vigorous effort to rise. f, bright and early, Monday morning.

se he coons in the last town were not quite up to ed a quart of yeast. Jeremiah John's standard, and he had had but listle to do with them, but in the next place they around his leg and set the pigs to rushing about. were very much more to his taste, and he began to

P During the first day he managed to get pretty well acquainted, and on the next, immediately after dinner, he shook his uniform, put on his gid- was a-comin'." liest suit, and started forth to enjoy himself.

nis parent sally out, and that youthful coon made crowd of spectators. ap his mind to have some fun.

back till any time ob night. Wouldn' my mudder enough to attract a crowd in a desert. be mad ef she knowed how dat coon go on! Mebshe would out mashin' shese's, dough, and den eleven persons had collected.

The a wanter say nuffin." The first thing Jeremiah did was to go into a barber shop to have his face scraped before going

"H'm! I know what I do now!" chuckled Solfun !" Jes' yo' wait a minnit, sah, an' yo' see

"Next!" shouted the barber as Jeremiah walked into the shop.

That big coon took off his coat, loosened his collar, stretched himself out in the chair and began

Solomon, looking in at the door on the sly, watched these preliminary proceedings with in-

The lather juggler plastered Jeremiah's face all pig driver in the nose.

"Dere, now! Reckon yo' lemme get up an' over with thick white suds an inch thick, and then Solomostrop his razor.

Solomon opened the door, stuck in his woolly ead and popened the door, stuck in his woolly "Fader, fader, dev's a flah!"

Then he shut the door with a bang and dusted The Word reet.

The word " fire" caused Jeremiah to wake up Up flew hit.

ut droppeds feet, and over went the foot-rest, and If the placed Jeremiah in a twinkling.

If the place was on fire it was no place for him. He made was on fire it was no place it a yank nd shot one jump for the door, gave it a yank The basis one jump full speed.

The barber's apron fluttered behind him, but he him. ment. Mind or even know about it in his excite-

with his face all white was sufficient to cause an how?"

Just excitement appearance on flah point in a moment.

On flah point in a moment.

The Yelled Jeremiah, "de barber shop am Jeremiah by the arm.

He couldn't reach at the couldn't re

Then be started to run, with no very definite idea and shoulders shorter than the coon.

Solore be started to run, with no very definite idea and shoulders shorter than the coon.

"Wha' yo' want, Shorty?" asked J.

of where started to run, with no very dendi-leaned he was going. Solomon was going.

Saned on saw him come rushing out, and he just ing down.

The little of the saw him cand laughed till he cried:

The little of the saw him cand laughed till he cried: leaned non saw him come rushing out, and no leaned saw him come rushing out, and no leaned till he cried:

"You ook of the fool niggah run!" he chuckled. Knows what he'm clean gone crazy. Wondah ef he ment.

He dial he'm gwine?"

With the control of the for a fact. Look almst a post and laughed till he cried:

The little cop's digital he bristled up in a mo-

He dash did not, for a fact. He diali did not, for a fact.

Interreptied on, and had it not been for a sudden with option on, and had it not been for a sudden with option of the probably have run ten miles

he bis in the form of a man driving two pigs. Biven attached to rope, but they had shorted, as he tugged at Jeremiah's arm.

The beachment to freedom, and had already snorted, as he tugged at Jeremiah's arm.

"G'way dar, boy, yom too numero and the shorted of the shorted of the shorted of the same."

"G'way dar, boy, yom too numero and shorted of the same."

The beachment to freedom, and had already snorted, as he tugged at Jeremiah's arm. The he man considerable trouble.

One of them, in blundering, pig fashion, must curb.

Do to them, in blundering, pig fashion, must curb.

The came Down between Jeremiah's legs. Down between Jeremiah's legs.

Resident that coon like the price of stocks in came rushing up and yelled:

"Here, you black mans, you black ma

The only on top of the second pig and then there ladder on your mount of the indeed.

The only is pig started on the back track and that py shiminies."

The the rope around Jeremiah's leg.

"Fo' de lan' ed," muttered finish."

When he g

Red cond pig gave sith watter his comrade.

halter his comrade.

Or has not at all particular which way be went,

of course there was a second upset.

liver fell over Jeremiah just us the latter as to get up. nocked that coon flat in an instant.

"G'off my back!" yelled Jeremiah. "Stop them pigs!" eried the driver.

other rush, and that threw him down.

"Get off'n me, I tol' yo'!" and Jeremiah made a / . 85 IB 0110 TO 10

Every movement he made only tightened the rope laughing to split. It wont tun que lus ed willow ker

"Fo' Gawge, dat am de funnies' ting I ever see.

Now, it so happened that Master Solomon saw the public street without attracting a numerous

Fader's goin' off mashin' an' like nuff won' be of them with black hands and white face, was

Some of them tried to catch the pigs.

They were only thrown down for their trouble, on hand in the square this evening. Everybody had advice of some kind to give.

"Shoot 'em; they're mad!" "Twist their tails, that'll stop 'em!"

"Cut the ropes!" and on I seems "Hold 'em!"

"Go get a cop!" word stime and low of

"Stand aside and give 'em air !"

This last piece of advice was from a benevolent old gent who had an idea that somebody had fainted, or was having a fit.

Jeremiah was now pretty mad.

Twisting himself around and getting on top, in some way, he hauled off his big fist, and took the

"Dere, now! Reckon yo' lemme get up an' go bout my bizness, he remarked.

Just then somebody cut the ropes, and the pigs went flying down street, scattering the crowd right and left. It don't ca time on the bearing entands out be

"Stop 'em, stop 'em!" howled the driver, jumping up and giving chase. The last deal districted

He seemed to have entirely forgotten that Jere-

miah had struck him. ers, 1b bas incomes a ni pacia emen moond t

Poor Jeremiah got up and surveyed himself. He was mud from head to foot, his clothes were

torn, and he felt as if an army had marched over

"Wheah my coat?" he muttered, forgetting all The sudden appearance on the street of a big nig fellah go? Wheah my hat? Wheah'm I anyabout the barber shop episode, "wheah dat pig mind to attend.

He couldn't reach any higher, being a good head

"Wha' yo' want, Shorty?" asked Jeremiah, look-

The little cop's cignity was greatly ruffled at his ing for it.

"You're drawing a crowd. You've got to go pecially pappery for him if he did.

interruption would probably have run ten miles bad fo' little boys to oberheat deir blood. Take it cool, sah. What's de mattah? Am yo' 'fraid somewithoution would probably have run ten miles bad to inthe boy.

The stopping.

That street at the same time that Jeremiah reached son, an' I take car' ob yo'."

The crowd laughed at this and that made the The crowd laughed at this and that made the

"I'm big enough to take you in, I guess," he

The he han considerable trouble.

"G'way dar, boy, you to human considerable trouble."

"G'way dar, boy, you to human considerable trouble.

"G'way dar, boy, you to human considerable trouble."

"G'way dar, boy, you to human "G'way dar, boy, yom too numerous," and dangling behind, but never tumbling to what was

Thought top of the second pig and then there pizness up already. Off you don't bay me for dot ladder on your face I takes it owit mit your skin, There was nothing bashful top on the second pig and that py shiminies."

There was nothing bashful coon, and he walked right to the pizness up already. I fo'got all 'boyt gettin' shav-tront seat. "Here, you black mans, you vas bust all mein the brothers and sisters were all standing up,

And the rope around Jeremiah's leg.

To de lan sakes, I logo in Guess I go back an' ed," muttered Jeremiah. "Guess I go back an' finish."

When he got back to the shop, however, he found

When he got back to the shop, however, he found Sam and Peter there, and they kept such a watch Quently he dashed right between his driv. on him that he had to give up his idea of going off, and returned to the hotel, ready for business.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE spring was at hand, and Sam Smart was saw the sign. the two pigs tacked and started off in a dif-still on the road, making money and having lots of one or two tittered, but the sisters looked scared and a few glanced furtively toward the descared

ever, for Sam was working around toward New York, and that coon expected to be at home before He started to get up, but the porkers made an- many week, and consequently felt less' dependent on Sam than before.

Solomon grew like a weed, and was as full of fun as when he started out, working off a sly snap now He couldn't have done it even if he had swallow- and then upon his respected parent, without the latter being any the wiser.

"Ef fader wants ter make a big fool ob hissef," he would remark, "tain't no fault ob mine ef I Solomon stood there looking at the circus and help him 'casionally m'se'f, an' it helps ter pass de time away besides." Monder offing gard and

With the spring time Jeremiah and Solomon had Couldn' 'a happened bettah if I'd knowed de pigs new uniforms, while Sam and Peter came out in giddy spring suits that sent King Solomon's grand-Of course such an event could not take place in our down several pegs for gorgeousness.

One day they entered a quiet country town all a-flying, with plumes waving, drums beating, Two squealing pigs, two floundering men, one bugles blowing and dodgers fluttering, the entire population running out to see what was up.

"Here we are again, as they say in the circus!" It wasn't long before fully one hundred and cried Sam, "and this time we intend to stay till we leave, no postponement on account of the weather. All desirous of making our acquaintance must be

"Come and see our great eat and dog circus, our educated mule, our funny darkies and our great comic singers in the funniest show on earth, all for nothing, no extra charge for standing.

"After the show you will have the chance of a lifetime to buy the best goods in the market at away down prices, all marked in plain figures, no discount for hanging us up, and extra inducements offered to large buyers.

"Buy the baby a frock, replenish your household supplies, and do a good deed by encouraging youthful ambition. My partner and myself are bashful and need conxing, so step around this evening and patronize us. We won't be mad, we really won't.

"All I've got to say now is, that when you see our goods you'll want 'em, and when you witness our show you'll wish we lived here all the time. The celebrated professor of the cornet, Signor Jeremiah John de Smith will now toot."

All this excited the curiosity of the countrymen. and as Sam drove around town in the afternoon and gave them another waking up he felt pretty sure of getting a good crowd around his wagon in His only anxiety now was to recapture the pork- the evening when the shades of night had begun to take a dropont out the delenstal tool stays

Jeremiah was thinking of other things besides business, however, when evening came,

He had heard during the afternoon that there was to be a prayer meeting in the colored church of the place that night, and he had made up the

It had been some time since he had been to a good old-fashioned prayer meeting, and he just Just then a little policeman came up and took allowed that he was going, business or no busi-

> Solomon got on to his father's intentions shortly after supper, and he resolved to have some fun. There was no use of telling Sam about it, for

> Jeremiah would find it out and give him a whal-He hardly dared to cut business and follow hi

> dad, having an idea that Sam would make it es-He made up his mind to have some fun with the

old man, even if he could not be there to see He therefore got a marking brush and some ink and a big square of pasteboard, on which he printed in big letters the legend:

"ISE CRAZY. I BITE, LOOK OUT."

Then he watched his chances, and as Jeremiah was sneaking out at dusk managed to detain him long enough to pin the placard to his back.

He had waited till it was dark so that Sam would Then he went on, but suddenly an excited barber time and hurried off to the darky church. not see him, and now he made the best use of his

There was nothing bashful or modest about that coon, and he walked right up and sat in the very

As he walked up the aisle a score or more coons saw the announcement on his back.

These pointed it out to others, and there was a pretty scared lot of mokes in that congregation by the time they sat down.

Then the parson made a long-winded prayer, and no sooner had he finished than up bobbed Jeremiah for his innings.

He had his back to the assembly, and everybody

The weather for the most part was mild and questioning the feasibility of making a break at

did it wound about his wrist, and, of course, served to bring sunshine in its train.

"Bredren an' sistahs, dis am one ob de bery let it go."

"Bredren an' sistahs, dis am one ob de bery shouted Jere-

abroad, seekin' who he may dewour! Him bite am not, and so no harm was done. shahpah den de sarpint, an' he stings like de addah. He am wuss dan a mad dog in fly time, I and buy your best girls a bottle of our genuine imtol'yo', and yo' wanter look out fo' him, dis eben ported perfumery, made from the choicest flowers used for mufflers, tablecloths, babies' dresses, or

Ebe in de gyarden ob Edum am still a-roarin' and a cake of soap thrown in. stockings, neckties or dusters, the longer you have roun', bredren, an' if yo' don' look out, he scoop "The soap alone is worth the price, as all know em, the more you'll like em, going at rock botyo' in afo yo' know it. 'Pent ob yo' sins, yo' nig- who have tried it. Made from olive oil and the tom prices, the chance of a lifetime.

much excited, jumped up and down, waved his swelled heads, ten cents a cake and a bottle of per- Jeremiah, you've been off mashing. Don't deny arms arms are ted, jumped up and down, waved his swelled heads, ten cents a cake and a bottle of per- Jeremiah, you've been off mashing. Don't deny arms arms are ted, jumped up and down, waved his swelled heads, ten cents a cake and a bottle of per- Jeremiah, you've been off mashing. Don't deny arms about, flopped around, and indulged in all fumery thrown in, will float and is always ready, it, but just step up here and show the ladies how serts of a postage stamp. Bend awaystly you can play. It's worth coming ten miles

scrits of Symnastics. Now he faced the congregation, and now he look- our testimonials from leading jailbirds throughout to hear this coon tackle the cornet, fellow citizens.

to read that placard on his back. His excited manner impressed those coons with "Here you have the essence of roses, the per-athousand dollars a week to play at Coney Island, the idea that he was a dangerous creature to have fume of the violet, the soft odor of the gentle sun- I do really."

warning before their eyes. he saw that announcement he felt like sneaking charge for the label. Pass up your handkerchiefs, to business.

out and finding a place of safety. state of excitement, and before long he was all of wipes with our famous cologne, can be smelt at neber go agir, no, neber! Neber war so 'sulted in

suddenly remarked. " De Lawd am nebber sham- makes the teeth as white as milk and as sweet as cotch 'em all dis bery night." ed to see man in him shirt sleeves, an' yo' need-silk, as nice as honey for a little money, always Sam found out what had happened later on in 'nter be eider mant manning anom obterchismes

dis worl' men who amn't 'shamed to take off deir coats and work in de Lawd's winyahd, de work thing is on the market. That boy Solomon is getting too fly for his would be bettah fo' it, bredren."

Then Jeremiah yanked off his coat and those

nearest the door made a break for it. They were certain that the escaped lunatic was

now soing to do something desperate. The women yelled, the parson ducked under the

pulpit and there was a grand scramble.

big coo all rushin' to distructium!" cried the big coop. woice ob wahnin' an' you won'. Bumbye, when you'm jes, dyin' to heah de wo'ds ob wisdom yo' these pests, better than a cat, for you don't have One warm, pleasant afternoon, toward the end won' get a chance, yo' wicked niggans."

Ain wicked, no more'n yo' be," piped up one slab-sided sister from the door, "but nobody ain'

Don' year, de die de messengah ob de Lawd a anything else, and gives grace, beauty and ele-eider." luna your go fo' to call de messengah ob de Lawd a anything else, and gives grace, beauty and ele-eider." Go

his Disching up sufficient courage to stick out Fetch out the life-preservers, Peter, there's going an' de watah am warm as toas'. Kin I go?" his head from behind the pulpit. "Dis am no to be a rush." place for a man wha' bites an' goes roun' tellin' rolling of it."

He thrown the garment down, and had not The crowd was in a buying mood, and was as "Wha' dat, boss?" noticed it till now. I had a homod to the

clusion that somebody in the congregation had or perfumery. played a joke on him.

That was as near as he came to anything. am no place to' jokes," he sputtered, "an' his eye on the crowd, spotted every new comer as the much mentioned clam in a freshet. when shamed ob yo' all. Ef dere eber was a place and roped him in as slick as goose grease. whar and of the lawd was needed mo' dan "Now, brother politicians, I'm going to sing you minutes later, as the two met on the hotel verandab er it am right yer in dis chu'ch! It am a won- a few hundred verses of my latest ballad. Hearses da, "the rivers hereabouts will rise."

Jo'all long afo' now !" The yanking off the placard, and tearing it " if you chance to meet your best girl on the street far bits, that very mad coon scattered the pieces sail near, grabbed his hat, put on his coat and

out of that church as mad as they make em. wasn't mad when he came in, he was taken he went out, and felt as if he would like to the a round out of the whole congregration, from the mister to the sexton.

There was a scattering when he started down Je a sele, for the coons didn't understand what Jere isle, for the state of the tain if the strange coon were not an escaped luna-

tic after all. Jeremiah felt that he had been insulted, and be got to the door, he turned around, and

the few who were left: jes 'm all a lot ob doomed sinnahs, yo' is, an' I nie bope ole Satan come an' cotch yo' dis bery an' if any ob yo' gets away, I'd jes like ter in to-morrer, an' pa'lyze de bull lot ob yo',

me'm de wussest, no-'count coons I eber seed!"
that he flounced out of the shurch, as mad shops, resolving to give prayer-meetings the shak from that time forth.

ntime Sam was getting along just as well as b Jeremiah had been on hand, and scarcely missing him, in fact.

gahs, else de ole debbil get yo' fo'shuah." leaves of roses, the purest soap on the market, good "I see our African brother approaching, and I Warming up to his work, Jeremiah became very for rheumatism, sore throats, coughs, colds and know that his mouth is just aching to play the bugle. will wear to the thinness of a postage stamp. Read sweetly you can play. It's worth coming ten miles ed at the Taced the congregation, and not not of New York every to read the inister, and so everybody had a chance the land. People that used this soap ten years ago Why I have to take him out of New York every to read the inister, and so everybody had a chance the land. People that used this soap ten years ago Why I have to take him out of New York every to read the land.

hanging around loose, particularly in view of the flower, and the magic aroma of the modest dander Jeremiah had now returned, and of course Sam lion, all combined in our non-corrosive, incom-caught sight of him as soon as he approached the The parson was a timid sort of man, and when bustible perfumery at ten cents a bottle, no extra wagon, and gave him a polite invitation to attend they will be returned, never fear. I never use one "Ain' been mashin' 'tall," muttered Jeremiah. Jerem in h kept on, working himself into a pretty myself, and so you're safe. Peter, douse these under his breath. "Been to pra'r-meetin', but I'll

handy and as good as candy, takes the cake and is the evening, and he at once tumbled to Solomon's "Ef dere was mo' up an' down Christians in easy to take, ten cents a box and a tooth-brush little racket, though he did not give the young coon free, no excuse for having soiled teeth when this away. It was not a said of harden and the said of harden and the

die for joy, and that's what you want. Beats the us." old-fashioned mouse-trap all to smash. Catches "If he does he'll have to wear sole leather in the the mouse, chucks him into a barrel and sets itself seat of his trousers," observed Peter, "for I'll tan for the next sucker of a mouse that comes along, his hide so that you can't shoot a bullet through Off came Jeremiah's coat and out rushed half of nickel-plated five cents extra, the it if he does." nickel-plate catches the high-toned mice, the com- "Oh, the old man has hardened him to that sort mon ones only snare the no-account rodents, of thing long before this," laughed Sam, "and "Dis am de time when yo' kin heah de Spend fifteen cents and clear your mansions of pression on him." though a mouse is a mouse all over the house. nothing short of a pile driver would make any im-

The next thing I offer to this intelligent data while?"

wing sell, to stay aroun' whar dey's a lunatic let ence is our patent non-conducting wire bustle; while?"

ence is our patent non-conducting wire bustle; while?"

can be made any size, won't explode, will outlast "The camp meeting season hasn't the ordinary ones, can be worn in any climate, is has it, Jeremiah John?" asked Sam. as good for a dog muzzle or a fly tatcher as for "No, sah, an Ildon' wanter go to be and of the conducting wire bustle; while?" "The next thing I offer to this intelligent audi- "Boss, kin I go off dis afternoon fo' a lilly ence is our patent non-conducting wire bustle; while?" a sential patent in log hear said in can be made any size, won't explode, will outlast "The camp meeting season hasn't opened yet, on' 'pent, de ole debbil hab yo' fo' long, as good for a dog muzzle or a fly eatcher as for "No, sah, an Ildon' wanter go to cam' meetin' yo' and to deal de debbil hab got a tight grip on gance to the form and all for the absurdly small "Going off on the mash?"

yo' and to de debbil hab got a tight grip on gance to the form and all for the absurdly small "Going off on the mash?"

price of balf a dollar. All the ladies want them; "No, sah, I'se goin' ober to de creek to take a greater the demand, swim. Dere is a bully place jest out ob town on Get out ob dis chu'ch!' stammered the par- the prettier they are the greater the demand, swim. Dere is a bully place jest out ob town r representative from Wayback

Sam's tongue was greased this evening and he a grin. rattled on at railroad speed, now throwing in a Just then Jeremiah caught sight of the card on batch of jokes or a verse or two of a song and hit-

eager for boys' ready made suits, match boxes, he saw the placard he jumped to the con-cooking stoves and shoe blacking as for toilet soap a scrubbing brush along with you."

bundles and making change, and Sam, keeping innuendoes, and he went away feeling as happy

yo' me dat de ole debbil habn't got his fis' on will be supplied for those who give out before it's over. Let her go, bullies: and Janu boy woll

It's what you might expect. You interchange greetings so loving and sweet, It's what you might expect;

You first swap impressions concerning the weather, Then the fashions, for which you don't care a feather, And at last you rush off to dinner together, . It's what you might expect.

When a man gets spliced to an auburn-haired wife, It's what you might expect, He has no more peace for the rest of his life,

It's what you might expect; When he takes her out walking some funny man

Is sure to remark about a white horse, Till at last he runs off and gets a divorce, It's what you might expect.

"When you've health and good fortune it seems rather

Though it's what you might expect, There are plenty of fellows to help spend your money, It's what you might expect; But when poverty comes and you are dead broke, You'll find your friends vanish-indeed it's no joke-For their vows of affection will all end in smoke,

It's what you might expect." pect, and it's also what you might expect that my their way to the brook.

miah, waving his hands. "De adwersary am sad blow to his sense of importance; but he did ket. The more we sell, the cheaper you can get

in specially, and warranted better than the original things sun umbrellas, fancy borders to match the com-Dat ole debbil wha' got de bes' ob Adam an' themselves, going with a rush at ten cents a bottle plexion, and full directions for making over into

have used none since. and will offer him

a sweat with his exertions.

Sous e me, bredren, ef I take off my coat," he "Catch on to our double-distilled tooth-paste, nahs I eber see, an' I jes' wish de ole boy would

"The next thing we offer is our patent cravat pop," said Sam to Peter, when he related Jerefor mice, rats and other vermin, a perfect fit and a miah's adventure at the prayer-meeting. "The sure cure. Any mice wearing these cravats will first thing we know he'il be putting up jobs on

to feed it, it won't sit out on the fence of nights and of April, when everything was blooming and howl, and it never has kittens. You never invest-giving promise of an early summer, Jeremiah ed fifteen cents more profitably in all your life, went to Sam and said:

"No, sah, I'se goin' ober to de creek to take a

"Can you go in swimming?" asked Sam with "Yas'r."

"Certainly. Go and wash yourself, you need

"Don't forget to take a bucket of softsoap and

Jeremiah was too well satisfied with the per-Peter and Solomon were kept busy passing up mission to get off, to take offense at Sam's little

"Peter, my son," said Sam to his partner, a few

"Turned weather prophet, have you?" "Yes, and I don't know whether profit or loss will result therefrom."

"Come down from the roof, Samuel. That gag was gray headed years before you were born. What about the rivers?"

"They will presently rise." "How do you know?"

"Jeremiah John and the rest of him has gone swimming."

"You don't mention it?"

"But I do, and I will whisper something in your ear, Pedro." "Go on with the whisper."

"There is material for a fresh laid, gilt edge snap in this."

"I'm listening."

"Let us hie us to the brook where the gentle Jeremiah bathes, and, Peter__"

Here Sam put his mouth to his chum's ear and whispered something which caused Peter to smile very audibly.

"First rate," he remarked, "but we must leave him something."

" I'll look out for that, and this is the part of the snap that's patented."

A few minutes later the boy peddlers started down "Yes, fellow aristocrats, it's what you might ex- the road, and presently struck into the woods on

Jeremiah known that, it would have been a goods are cheaper and better than any on the mar- Meantime Jeremiah had reached a quiet, seclud-

ed spot on the banks of the stream where there He couldn't seem to make the case out at all. was a deep pool with a sandy bottom, a shelving He evidently thought the clothes were his, but and wallop Solomon. beach, and everything else lovely.

ed to remove his gaudy garments.

He had a sponge as big as his head, a cake of They were non est getatabus, not to be found, in Having dressed himself, that angry coon next soap that would have sufficed to do the family other words. washing for a month, a huge Turkish towel as Shirt, shoes and underclothing had departed.

The latter was a very high-toned article, and suddenly exclaimed Jeremiah, in a tone of deep however, and he found him before Jeremiah came demonstrated very clearly the fact that Jeremiah conviction. could be stylish in the water as well as anywhere He had solved the mystery.

and each stripe was fully four inches wide; but 'um !" then as Jeremiah was no featherweight he required The tone showed that Solomon would be likely I'll give you an order on the agent for them. I'll

"Glad dat boy Solomon ob mine ain' aroun'," However, he could not stand there on the bank he mused. "He'm ailus up to mischief, an' likes all the afternoon, moralizing. not he go to jugglin' wif my close ef he knowed I He must get home somehow or other, clothes or

There was no Solomon either in sight or hearing, however, and after sunning himself for a time, Jer- not absolutely naked. emiah slipped into the stream and began swim- He might get back to the hotel without being thought of going off all by himself.

Presently, as he was disporting himself in the deepest part of the pool, kicking and splashing and all. having a great time generally, along came Sam Having come to this conclusion, he tucked the mus' be los'."

he therefore could not see the two jokers.

They took particular pains that he might not, hands, he started out for the hotel. either, for they sneaked down behind the bushes Fortunately, he reached it unobserved. and crept cautiously toward the spot where the As he stepped on the veranda, however, Sam and coon had placed his clothes.

-Jeremiah was still floundering about, unsuspici- It was quite by accident of course. ous of evil, when Sam and Peter reached cautiously through the bushes and abstracted his garments. last ten minutes. Then Peter left something in their place, and he Oh, no, certainly not.

and Sam noiselessly withdrew. coon discovers what's up," remarked Sam when also came out. he and Peter had got at laughing distance from the "Hallo, Jeremiah," said Sam, "why this gor-do, Marse Sam."

"Right you are, Samivel, and if I didn't want to "Turned wild man of the woods, have you?" spoil things, I'd give half a dollar to see the fun."

"So would I, but we'd better mosey." And they moseyed forthwith. a sold of knoth ele of Testing

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THAT was an elegant swim that Jeremiah had in

the creek that warm spring afternoon.

It was also a daisy little racket which Sam and Peter put up on him as he was kicking around in guess." deep water, mindful of nothing but the fun he was having.

After a time, thinking he had had all the fun he wanted, and beginning to feel cool, he swam to Sam. shore, and stepped out upon the bank.

A good rub-down with his big towel made him feel like a new coon in town, and then he looked around for his clothes.

Either they had taken to themselves wings and skipped out while he was in swimming, or he was so blind that he could not see them.

He saw something lying on the bank, but could hardly believe that they were the ample garments he was accustomed to wearing.

He lifted up and held out a very small pair of knee breeches and a jacket just their match in point of size.

Astonishment was no name for the expression Sam. on the face of that surprised coon as he gazed upon these miniature garments.

for a boy of six and small at that.

Sam kept such things in his stock, and that was how he came to have them on this occasion.

"Fo' de lan' ob glory! how my close hab shrunk!" exclaimed Jeremiah.

He could scarcely believe his eyes.

"Dat's wha' comes ob buyin' dem cheap tings, Solomon when I fin' him." Leabe 'em out in de aiah an' dey shrink all up to nuffin,"

much too soon, and it is doubtful if even Solomon ob 'em." could have gotten into them.

and nothing else, holding up those infantile gar- "All de same he done it an' I make him 'memments and wondering how he was ever going to bah not to wo'k any mo' rackets on his fader aftah get into them, was a sight to make a mule laugh. dis. He'm gettin' too funny to lib, dat boy am.

up in de watah or dem gahments mus' hab shrunk get spited m'se f, ef I didn' hab lots ob sense."

how they got so little was what puzzled him.

good swim dis yeah," he remarked, as he proceed- to stan' in de sun till I melt, an' den po' m'se'f into ing missing. dem."

his shirt and other habiliments.

large as a table cloth, and a pair of bathing trunks. "H'm! I jes' know what am de mattah now!" thrashed for something he knew nothing about,

The trunks were striped red, white and blue, ag'in, an' hab done tooken my close away an' put you to flood the place with circulars." dese in deir place. Won' he cotch it when I see

a big pair of trunks, and nothing was lost of the to have a seance in the woodshed in company with be along to-morrow." his pa and a trunk strap when next they met.

his striped trunks, and might easily have been Why, dey wouldn' fit him, he ownse'f, to say the country at the rate of forty miles an hour his taken for a rainbow as he strutted about on the nuffin' ob a good size fellah like me! Won' dere father was hunting high and low for him. bank, preparatory to taking his initial plunge. be wah when I cotch dat boy? M-m!"

no clothes.

At any rate he meant to chance it.

the end of the towel in the belt of his tights and Jeremiah's back was turned toward the bank and let it hang down in front like an apron. Then, with the juvenile wearing apparel in his

Peter came out of the office.

They had not been watching for that coop for the

Not only Sam and Peter, but two or three hay-"There'll be weeping and wailing when that seeders, the clerk, the hall-boy and the proprietor

queried Peter.

"Find it too warm for clothes up here?" asked the clerk.

"Wall, I vum, ef that ain't the durnedest !" roared one of the countrymen.

"I swan if it ain't, by gosh!" coincided the oth-

er representative from Wayback.

"Get on to his shins," chuckled the hall-boy. "Wears an apron, too. Settin' the fashion

"He don't want to miss showing them stunning de hull toe was mos' yanked off me." tights, I tell you."

Then all hands laughed, and Jeremiah got mad. isn't he?" "Got tired of wearing clothes, Jeremiah?" asked

"No, sah, I hasn't, but I'd jes' like ter know how yo' spec a feller to get into dese ere t'ings?"

With that the indignant coon displayed the suggestion of a wardrobe that had been left in the nasty tah. Wow! I kin smell him yet."

Then there was another howl. All hands had only his natural exuberance cropping out." something to say.

"How you must have grown!" "My! what a shrinkage!"

"The sun must have been awful hot!"

"Guess the water swelled him?"

"Put a stone on his head and press him out." "Better go and dress yourself, Jeremiah," said about it."

wha' took away my tings I bus' his jaw."

"Haven't any clothes, eh?" "No, sah."

"Where's your uniform?"

"Lor' sakes, I done fo'got dat. To be sure, I'se "This is my last appearance in town, ladies and

"What's the matter with him?"

The things would certainly fit the big moke my close an' put dese lilly ones ob his own in place ments to ladies.

The huge darky in his gorgeous bathing tights squeeze him into them and then they'd split." "Solomon couldn't wear those unless you

"Fo' goodness sake, eider I mus' hab swelled Trablin' roun' de country spoils anybody. Spec's I

went off in a huff, first to dress and then to find

When he reached his room he found his clothes "I declar' fo' it, dis am de fus' time I've had a "How in time I get into dem 'tall? Spec's I hab all laid out upon the bed, in good order and noth-

He had brought the requirements for a first- However, he generally wore more than a coat um! Et it had been a tramp I'd neber hab seed "Dere! now I know it was dat boy wha' took class bath along with him, and evidently meant to and a pair of trousers, and he began looking for em agin! Ef I don' larn dat boy a lesson dis time,

proceeded to hunt up Solomon.

Sam did not care to have the young coon

down and said:

"Dat boy Solomon hab been up to him tricks to the next town and stay there till I come. I want

"A' right, boss, I sow 'em knee deep."

That coon looked just too giddy for anything in "De idea ob his leabin' me dese lilly things! in ten minutes, and while he was scurrying along

"Drat dat boy! I reckon he knowed I wanted to lick him jes' as well as nuffin'. A'right; I'll gub it to 'um all de hahdah when I do fin' 'um-

jes' see if I don'!" He had his tights and the big towel, and so was ing made for him he would doubtless have indulged If Solomon had known of the search that was bein considerable more grinning than he did at the

When it came time to hitch up Jeremiah went

If he was discovered, he could hoof it, that was "Boss, I do b'lebe suffin' hab happened to dat to Sam and said sadly: boy ob mine. He ain' come fo' his suppah, an' he

> "Oh, I guess he's all right, Jeremiah. Solomon is no fool,"

> "'Deed he ain', Marse Sam, but ef he ain' los' den he's run away."

"What makes you think so?"

"'Case he done put up dat job on me when I was in swimmin' dis aftahnoon, an' he knows he get licked fo' it when I cotch 'um." "How do you know he did it?"

"It am jis' like him. He am gettin' too big fo' his boots, an' I lick de nonsense out'n him jes' soon's I cotch um."

"You're too hard on him, Jeremiah."

"No, I ain'. Yo' donno half de tricks dat boy " No?"

"No, sah. De oder day he fill de toe of my stockin' full ob cobblah's wax, an' I was all night, mostly, tryin' to get it off."

"Is that so?"

"Yas'r, an' anoder time he nail my boots to de flo', and when I put my foots in 'em I couldn' mobe. Fought I was pallyzed."

"That was good."

"Yas'r, an' anoder time he tie a rope roun' my big toe, an' fasten de oder end to de bedpos', an' den yell like de debbil, an' when I jump up I fink

"Why, Solomon is getting to be quite a joker,

"He am gettin' to be too fresh, dat's what he is. Not mo'n free days back he filled my ebery-day hat half full ob tah, an' lef' it stan'in' on de table in de hall. I come out in de dark, put on de hat wifout lookin' in it, an' got kivered all ober wif "Oh, you musn't mind all that, Jeremiah. It's

"Well, I cut it sho't whateber it am. Tol' yo' another trick he do. He took de-"

"I haven't got time to listen to any more of Solomon's rackets, Jeremiah," interrupted Sam, fearing that there would be no end to the recital. " I'll take a night off some time and let you tell me all

"Ef he hab run away," muttered Jeremlah, "I "How kin I dress m'se'f when I ain't got no jes' hope he'll run 'cross some ob de faders I'be By the look of them they must have been made close?" snorted the coon. "Ef I cotch de feller seed. Dey'd wallop him wif a caht pole ef he on'y opened him head."

Sam now hitched up and drove out into the public square, where the lights, the music and Sam's

melodious voice soon drew a big crowd. got lots ob close. All de same, I wahm dat boy gentlemen," yelled Sam, "prior to going to Europe and around the world. The trip will take me ten years. So, if you want to get bargains, get 'em "What de mattah wif him? Why, didn' he stole now, as it is your last chance. Special induce-

> "There was a man up in Duluth, Who lost every bleseed old tooth From chewing spruce gum, And now he's a burn, I'm telling you only the truth.

"There's a moral to this pome. The first man that finds it can have a box of Smart's tooth paste. There was a general laugh at this and Jeremiah ordinary price, a quarter a box, hardens the guas, on the smoothest face after five applications, pat-dat! Didn' fink dat ob de boss, I didn'." ent applied for.

"An old woman down in New York, Used to pick her teeth with a fork Till at last she did bore A hole through her jawr, And it had to be plugged with a cork,

"There's a moral attached to this little narrative also. If the old woman had used my disinfecting, town, and hurrying on toward the city, where he "Over with him, boys. He wants a bath." silver-plated tooth paste, she wouldn't have had to take such heroic measures to keep her mouth in the paste. Don't forgetthat this is the last chance you have, for to-morrow I'm going to skip. Sam- ways, and the fun he made. ple boxes five cents, tooth brush thrown in.

"Couple on to our magnetic hair brush, makes hair grow on bald heads, strengthens the scalp and wagon that evening when the lamps were lightrestores the hair. Married men with shrewish ed and a crowd stood around, "but while I'm wives, take particular attention. Bald-headed here I'm going to make things hustle. There are his ankles, but as he went head-first that was quite men step up and invest. It won't interfere with your sitting in the front row at the ballet, and bad stop, but I haven't, and so I'm just going to sell boys in the gallery won't have your head as a target for beans, hereafter. Twenty-five cents buys a bind friends what I would do if I collaborate banks. brush and full directions how to use it. Baldness kind friends what I would do if I only had time to would be unknown if these brushes were more stop. universally used. I had a big crop of hair myself "I would tell you some things, both funny and queer, When I was only a year old just because I used one of these brushes."

When business began to slack up, Sam slung in a few songs and jokes, Jeremiah played the bugle, and Peter put Moses and the mule through their

exercises. Finally the crowd began to thin out and Sam extinguished the lights, shut up the wagon and drove back to the hotel, well pleased with his night's Work.

The next morning they left town, poor Jeremiah

mourning for the lost Solomon.

He thought more of that boy than he supposed he had, and he now confided to Sam that if that young coon would only return he would forgive him for all his tricks.

"Bress him lilly haht, I lubs dat boy mo'n yo' kin fink, Marse Sam," he said, "an' ef he comes back, I jes' take him to my haht an' hug him. neber knowed befo' how much I lubbed dat chile."

"Yes, Solomon is a pretty good boy," said Sam, "but you abused him, and I don't think you'll ever see him again."

"Does yo' fink so boss?" asked Jeremiah John, drawing a long face.

"Certainly. I don't blame the boy for running away, when you used to club him so much."

"Don' yo' fink he hab run away?" "Of course. He ought to be in New York by this time."

Jeremiah gleefully, "an' I see him agin."

ship and go to China or Australia or some other Things went like hot cakes or a high hat in a "Fo' de Lawd's sake, please come an' help a po' place."

donno wha' ter do."

"Like enough he'll be lost at sea, anyhow." "Oh, Marse Sam, how kin yo' talk like dat?" ready."

"Yo' broke my haht, 'deed yo' do," and the big that evening and go and see the sights.

miah, and pictured all sorts of dreadful things as ing not to see him.

happening to Sclomon till poor Jeremiah was as "I'll fire that coon in a week or so," he remark-wade. I wade. nervous as a cat, and blubbered steadily for five ed, "and so I might as well let him do as he likes "Guess I go furder," he muttered, but he went miles. Total paro law usuf bun bouch stoobbujust now." and sandbood wollet ave or further only to fare worse, as is often the case.

stood Solomon on the post-office steps swinging asked Sam where the big moke was. to the water's edge, and reaching far above, his heed. his hat, and by the amount of waste paper strewn "Gone off to a coon wedding or a prayer-meet- "Fo' de' lan' sakes, wha' do folks wanter build about, Sam knew that he had been hard at work. ing, I suppose," Sam replied. "I saw him sneak- a wall heah fo'?" growled that disgusted coon as he

ceased his weeping, straightened up, njumped fore seven o'clock." highe out them and in or. and we may all ! looks 'nob no lon no that down, threw Solomon across his knee, gave three "And you let him go?" He had to let go, and down he went to the mudor four soakers with his open hand, and exclaimed, excitedly:

"Certainly."

Certainly."

Chuckled Peter. "He steamboat. ed, excitedly:

away an' break yo' fader's haht agin, will yo'? Ef "Oh, well, what's the use in bothering with he yelled with all his might for assistance.

sudden change of front became doubly comical, Peter, with a chuckle.

After the sale was over he got four big fellows "Nice time ob night dis am to be gettin' home!"

broke away from his fond parent and went scurry- miah as he came over the bridge. ing across the street.

De boss done sen' me down yer las' night to him.

Wo'k up de town. Ef yo' tech me agin I will run

Jeremiah had been calling on a widow, whose shoes at every step and dripping from his saturataway to suah, an' neber come back no mo'; no acquaintance he had made in the afternoon, and ed garments.

keeps you from chewing tobacco, sweetens the de time an' he go to tellin' me all sorts ob stories "Don' car' ef he does," he sniffed. "Guess I'se breath, makes the hair curl, and produces a beard bout him goin' to sea an' gettin' run ober an' all 'titled to a little res' now an' den. Ef it hadn'

was only mad at Sam.

thanks to Solomon, and Sam remained two or As he reached the middle of the bridge, right over

for a week or so, stopping only one night in a him. intended to end up his trip.

geous wagon, his funny coons, his own nobby the water at its deepest point.

"I haven't got time to stop very long, ladies and gentlemen," he sang out from the rear of the lots of things I could tell you if I only had time to enough. all I can. But that reminds me of a song. Tune he reached the bottom the river slopped over its

If I only had time to stop,

I would tell you of things worth coming to hear

If I only had time to stop,

beer Will make e'en a saint go off on his ear, If I only had time to stop.

I would tell many things to cause you surprise, If I only had time to stop, And the way for a foolish man to become wise,

If I only had time to stop; What base ball team will take the first prize, And when dudes begin to open their eyes,

If I only had time to stop.

'I would tell who would win in the next White House particularly simple task even when one is lithe

If I only had time to stop, And what horses are certain to collar first place, If I only had time to stop,

How society girls can reep up the pace And how to get rich on nothing but face,

If I only had time to stop; I could tell you some things that you don't learn at dy water. school

If I only had time to stop,

And how to avoid the hind legs of a mule If I only had time to step,

I could show how a man is naught but a fool If he doesn't live up to the square and fair rule, But I haven't got time to stop."

This effusion tickled the crowd, and they called de tas'e ob it." "Well, den he run home to him mudder," said for more verses, when Sam quietly informed them All this time the current was taking Jeremiah that if he only had time to stop he would do it: down stream, his progress toward the bank being "Oh, he won't stay in New York. He'll get on a but he hadn't, and so must proceed to business. | nothing to speak of.

"De po' lilly kid! I feel so sorry fo' him, I he took away a nice little boodle with which to debtil cotch me dis time an' I do anyfing yo' like. help pay his expenses during the sweet summer- Fo' massy sakes sabe me dis time, deah Lawd, an' time and they the make and t

"Don' yo' talk like dat!" blubbered Jeremiah. vacation for some time, and he would cut business outside aid.

coon bellowed like a calf. Sam saw him sneaking off just at dusk, but he main current, and that was something at least. Sam did not say any more, but Peter got at Jere-didn't take the trouble to call him back, pretend- He finally reached the bank, but found it steep

When the wagon stopped Jeremiah suddenly ing off down the road and over the bridge just be-stuck his fingers in the chinks and tried to hold

"Dere! vo' good fo' nuffin' young imp, run don't care a cent for what you say nowadays." He was getting tired out and frightened, and now

I cotch yo' at it I'll gib yo' sech a whalin' dat yo' him. We'll be at home in a short time and then The current carried him down stream, but after

They knew that coon, and as it was bright moon- have been at home and in bed long before.

dellar, and a collar button free.

been fo' me his ole show wouldn' ha' mounted to Solomon kept out of Jeremiah's way all that nuffin'. Guess ef I hadn' been 'long he wouldn' day, which was a useless precaution, for the coon made his salt. De show wouldn' pay spenses ef had forgotten all about the promised licking and I hadn' been wif it, an' I guess I kin take a wacation wheneber I like. Hallo, heah am de bridge. The boy peddlers did pretty well in this town, Dey ain't much furder to go."

three days longer than he had intended. | the rushing water, four forms suddenly jumped Then Sam went rattling through the country out from he couldn't tell where, and grabbed

Then before the luckless Jeremiah could struggle One day he drove into a bustling town, and at- or protest or yell, the four fellows lifted him off ninety-nine others, given away with every box of tracted lots of attention on account of his feet and sent him headlong off the bridge into

CHAPTER XXIX.

SPLASH! Right into the river went Jeremiah, clean over

He went down in fifteen feet of water, and when

When he came up again, sputtering and blowing, he had the field to himself.

Nobody was in sight, and there was the bridge and the moon and the river just the same as before.ms if tod viewel ata baoz ch nesti-

"Fought somebody frowed me off de bridge, I would tell you why drinking too much wine and but I reckon I mus' hab fallen ober m'se'f," he muttered, as he started to swim to shore."

The river ran very swiftly, and that Jumbo coon, burdened as he was with all his clothes, and, worse yet, his canal-boat shoes, found swimming anything but an easy job under the circumstances.

"Fo' goodness' sakes, dem shoes ob mine am heaby as lead," he grunted. "Wondah if I kean' pull 'em off?"

Now pulling off one's shoes in the water is not a

and active. In the case of a big, overgrown nig like Jeremiah John Joseph the job presented many obsta-

The minute he reached down after his shoes he went under and swallowed a quart or two of mud-

He tried this thing three or four times before he

had the sense to give it up.

"Wow! dat am de dirties' fresh watah I eber tasted," he muttered. "Shouldn't wondah if all de sewahs in de willage emptied into it. I be awful sick of I take any mo' ob it, an' I done hab to break my wo'd an' take some sperrits to took away

gale and when Sam left town the next morning, niggah!" he yelled. "Oh, Lawd, don' let de ole I neber sass de boss any mo'."

When they reached the next town and had set- Jeremiah did not stop swimming to utter this Or maybe he's been run over by the cars al-tled down, Jeremiah John took it into his head, petition, for he realized that he might as well do just before supper-time, that he had not had any all he could to help himself, even if he did call in

He was getting nearer to the bank and outside the

When the wagon drove into the next town, there When it came time to hitch up, however, Peter Here there was a stone wall built right down

kean't walk fo' a monf!"

After all Jeremiah's tears and lamentations, this "I'll give it to him this evening," muttered shallows and low banks, and here the worn-out

Solomon did not think it so funny, and he soon that hung around the hotel to go and meet Jere- he muttered, as he heard a clock strike one, forgetting that if he had stuck to business he would

Neber run away 'tall, yo' ole niggah!" he cried. light, they would have no difficulty in recognizing He struck for the first road and went stumping

his stay was a long one.

Then Jeremiah took a great big tumble and It was nearly midnight when he came along what a feller kean't walk ober wifout fallin' into transferred his anger from Solomon to Sam Smart, the road, singing to keep himself company, and de riber, wha' makes dey hab any 'tall? Dat's "De idee! De boss know whar dat boy was all wondering if Sam would say anything. what I'd like to know? I'd like to know? I'd like to know?

Mary Lemmed.

"De idea ob my tumblin' inter de riber like dat, jes' s'f I wuz drunk an' didn' know nuffin'! I'se Fortunately, the porch protected that importun-can remedy. Why, it is so efficacious that corn mos' 'shamed ob myse'f, so I is, an' ef de boss fin' ate coon, or he would have been riddled with buck- won't grow at all in Mexico. Try a box of it, for

neber!

road I eber trabeled. Dey don' seem to be nobody the landlord. "That young feller had no business of teeth, especially when you've got hold of a stirrin'. Wonder how much furder it am? Ef I to fetch a nigger to the hotel anyhow. The stable tough beefsteak or a leathery chop. Preserve the wasn' a membah ob de church, an' had faif in de was good enough for him." teeth by the use of Smart's tooth paste, and live Lawd, reckon I'd be as skeered as a mouse to go However, as he had not seen Jeremiah depart, happy. You couldn't put a dime to better use along like dis all alone.

hebben. It don' 'pean to be bery pleasan', but it on'y foller it an' don' tone to de right nor de lef'.

"On'y foller de stret road, bredren, and yo's He had only meant to scare the coon; but now wearers of crockery grinders. boun' ter git to heaben, an' den de ole debbil kean he felt sure that he had killed him, and was nearly tone yo' aside or 'suade yo' to go 'long o' him, an' wild. when yo' git to de gret white gates an' de angel ob de Lawd comes down tootin' on a horn an' gibs yo' wanted to know what the fuss was about. a new suit ob close to weah an' a bran new silk Peter knew, and he told Sam, the latter laughing I'm a perfect philanthropist to let things go at hat to put on yo' head, dat ole debbil he feel so to choke. mad he jes' like to kick hese'f all roun' town, an' den de lilly debbils dey hab to look out kase de poor Jeremiah is half scared to death." boss he make 'em wo'k all de handah stirrin' up The landlord certainly was in that condition, and when it began to get late, Sam knocked o't half the de flah to roas' de nex' po' sinnah de boss debbil shook like a leaf. cotch a nappined last lever est bus noom edi basi

on'y one dat yo' kin be shuah ob taken yo' home to found."

The river can very swiftly, and that Lurche co "Oh, who's gwine to heaben by de lightnin' spress? Don' yo' hear dem bells?

Put on yo' crown an' yo' weddin'-dress-Don' yo' heat dem belis?

Oh, i'se gwine to glory on de berry fus' train-Don' yo' heah dose bells? Fo' Pll neber hab sech a good chance again-Golly! jes' heah dem bells!"

At this juncture Jeremiah's meditations and song were rudely interrupted.

"Wow-wow, bow-wow-wow, gruh !" A big brute of a dog, with a voice like a fog-horn, came bouncing out of a yard and dashed at the

coon's heels, a patts awob bedozer ed studion of been broken by Jeremiah's warbling, he felt great-

ly insulted, and came out to resent the injury done to him. "Fo' goodness' sake!" yelled that frightened times. coon, as he suddenly tore down the road, the dog

in full chase. He forgot all about the road to heaven and

everything else, devoting all his attention to getting away from that dog as soon as possible. He might have paralyzed that barker by one

kick of his big shoes, but he was too much frightened to think of this, and took to his heels.

The dog followed him for nearly half a mile, yelping and barking and snapping till poor Jere- ing tones: Izen ent nwot that med nertwork but also mish was about scared out of the few senses he ... Don't shoot! I'm the landlord." massy sakes sabe me dis time, desh Lawd, .bsd

Then that dog concluded to go home, but Jeremiah was so broken up that he ran and ran and out and carve that fellow into steaks." never stopped till he had gone nearly a mile past the hotel, and was ready to drop from sheer exhaustion.

The clock struck three when he reached the silent.

"Gorry! I'se gotter git in somehow or rudder," he muttered. "Kean't stay out heah all night in of trumpets, the rustics looking at him open-ing shriek. dese wet close fo' anyfing."

ed on it with both fists.

gun stuck out, and a voice heard, saying:

He had to let go, and down be went to the of hed all

"Stay there, then, if you belong there."

"No, I don' belong yer, I b'long in de house."

he come an' lemme in." a saless wor bus swelled

Nice time on night dis am to be gettim ho swods

about him like hail.

were resumed.

Bang Podo out willen an area of alon min more

the veranda and smack against the door. medal shown to each purchaser.

"Fo' de lub ob de Lawd, dis am de lonesome's "There! I reckon I've settled him," muttered "Everybody appreciates the value of a good set

would be hanged at daybreak.

"Let the boss let him in," he said. "I'll bet get home, and so everything has got to go."

"I'll bet I've killed him," he gasped. "I'd bet- to selling tooth paste, blacking and corn salve for "Yes, bredren, de road am lonely, but it am de ter go down, secure the body and hide it before it's a cent a box.

de promised lan'. Les' sing de hundred an' fit' Then he took a candle and went down-stairs in and found to be pretty nearly empty, all the heavy

room.

Jeremiah looked through the key-hole, saw the light coming down and chuckled.

"Reckon de lan'lo'd fink I'se dead, an' he am comin' to take me in," he muttered. "I fix him, see of I don'." sand not salet diw must find sale

Then he stood alongside the door, and presently slowly opened.

Jeremiah suddenly gave a yell, dashed open the door, grabbed the landlord by the back of the neck condition by this time and looked as if it had been and then slung him out in the middle of the road. through the wars. In a moment the door was closed and fastened,

and Jeremiah was laughing to split his sides. "Yah-yah! dere's de lan'lo'd out in de col'! with mirth good not land against omos not list bines

There were times when no flies could be found loafing around that nig, and this was one of the

Having locked out the landlord he proceeded to his room and to bed, leaving the proprietor to get in as best he could. Togots of shift log Proven

The boss of the house made a great fuss, banged on the door and yelled, when Peter, appreciating the situation, stuck out his head and shouted: sive cavalcade.

"Go away, you old tramp, or I'll shoot you full of holes mand of the enough latin os than a abad and

That scared the fellow, and he cried, in thunder- a sharp turn in the road.

"Tell that to a greenhorn. You can't fool me. proaching train.

Go away, or I'll fire. Sam, get your knife, and go That settled it. I agod moot asimprot, awab b

hid under a wagon in the yard till sunrise.

Sam left town that morning, and got one jog Sam, by a dexterous movement, wheeled his house at last, and found everything dark and nearer the city, his supply of goods beginning to horses about, and dashed alongside the track with get pretty low. mut ago of sideout out oast.

mouthed as he rattled off his nonsense. The horses plunged forward, the wagon swung

the first and foremost boy peddlers in the country, as the train passed. Pretty soon a window was thrown up, a shot-together with our celebrated troupe of comedians, All hands were spilled out, but fortunately no one singers, dancers and trained animals, all of which was hurt. "Go away from here, or I'll fill you full of holes will make you open your eyes as well as your Jeremiah was thrown into a little tree and hung in ten seconds." he said at stong and and mouths. I want to be the bear out a rob to a there. I was a minimare t

peddler, and this is my partner, Mr. Peter Pocket, muddy water, and came out looking like a tramp. the supreme refined song and dance artist and and smelling worse than a skunk. lightning change salesman. All our songs are Sam and Peter were spilled out most uncere-"Well, you can't get in now, if you do belong copyrighted and we'll knock spots out of anybody moniously, and sat on the ground by the roadside who tries to use 'em. Fakirs please take notice. looking the picture of woe.

to pound again: "Reckon I wake up Solomon an' funny coon and his father, Signor Jeremio Smith-land their shoes were bursted; but no bones were ini, the terror on the cornet, who has played before broken, and both soon recovered their spirits. "Go away!" yelled the man at the window all the royal families of Europe, Africa, Ireland As for the wagon, it was a total wreck, and was and New Jersey, and is a master of his art. Jere-good for nothing but kindling wood.

pounded. That evening there was a big throng in the pub- was not more complete than the destruction of Bang! lic square and nearly everybody bought something. Sam's famous peddler's wagon.

"Whos dar! hel' on, don' yo' shoot me. I hain' leather preserver, can be used in plum puddings down, and converted into an entire and total done nuffin'. Stop o' dat, I tol' yo'." for mince pies with excellent results, and makes a wreck. "I won' do it," and the hammering and kicking never be without it. Ten cents, or six for half a hurt, and Sam presently caught and led them into dellar, and a collar button free.

"Next you have our corn salve, the great Mexiit out, he last like de mischief, I 'spect. shot of the largest size. ten cents. Will remove corns from wooden toes, "Den ter go fallin' in dat massy, muddy watah, "Go away, you chicken-stealing nigger!" yelled and knock spots out of warts, bunious and other wha' jes' come out'n de sewah, I dassay. Golly! the man with the gun. Reckon I neber get de tase out ob my mout, Jeremiah said nothing, but stood close in under by one application. Ten cents a box, and a gold

and the noise had ceased, he began to fear that he than by investing it in this handy little article, "Bredren, dis yer road min's me ob de road to had killed the big darky." good for teeth of all sorts, human teeth, saw teeth, That frightened him, for, although a big bully, or any other teeth. Hardens the gums, toughens leads stret to de place whar yo' wanter go ef yo' he had a terror of the law, and imagined that he the jaw, and nerves the cheek. Stump speakers take notice. Ten cents a box, special discount to

"Match boxes, knife sharpeners, can openers, mouse traps and blacking brushes, going at prices The noise had aroused the house, and everybody to make you laugh. The chance of a life time. You'll never get such bargains again. Why, gents, such absurd prices, but I want to clear out and

> Pretty nearly everything did go, for a fact, for, price on lots of his smaller wares, and finally got

The next morning the wagon was overhauled his shirt and trousers, leaving the shotgun in his and more valuable stuff having been disposed of lat good prices.

Sam had no more goods waiting for him on the road, as he had made up his mind to close up as soon as possible, and the next move, therefore, was to dispose of what he had left.

It would not pay him to stay another night in the town, as he had so little, and he therefore the bolts, chains and locks were withdrawn, and it sold all he had to the general store and left town with an empty wagon.

That gilded chariot was in rather a dilapidated

The paint was dingy, the springs were worn, the wheels were sprung, the axies were weak and if a good, healthy blizzard had come that way, He was a watch-dog, and his slumbers having Wondah how he likes dat?" and Jeremiah shook there wouldn't have been enough left of that wagon to hold services over.

"Well, we may as well drive straight to New York," said Sam. "We haven't many miles to go. and we ought to be there to-morrow, at least." Off they started, Sam and Peter on the box, Sol-

omon and Jeremiah behind, and the dog, Moses, running alongside. The mule had been sold and the cat was dead,

and that was all that remained of the once exten-They were rattling along through the country,

when they suddenly came upon a railroad track at There was no sign of its being there till they sud-

denly came upon it, and heard the roar of an ap-

The horses snorted and plunged, and Sam had all he could do to control them.

There was not time to cross the track nor to stop The landlord got so scared that he ran away, and the frightened steeds and something must be done at once ist berodded The oall and by

just room to spare and no more.

He went into the next town with a big flourish On came the train, the engine letting out a piere-

Then he stepped up to the front door and pound- "Here we are, fellow hoodlums, Smart & Co., suddenly around, and then went over like a shot

"Hol' on, hol' on, don' shoot! Dis am whar I "I am Sam Smart, the original comic singing Solomon was chucked head first into a ditch of

"Wha's de reason I kean't?" and Jeremiah began "Here we are and here is Solomon Smith, the Their clothes were torn, their hats were smashed,

"Won' do it!" and Jeremiah kicked as well as miah, blow the bugle." The collapse of the wonderful "one hoss shay"

A sudden report startled the echoes for a mile Sam started in with the usual comic business; so The wheels were knocked into the middle of next as to catch the crowd, and then put up a lot of week, the pole was made into toothpicks, the golden Luckily Jeremiah was not hit, but the shot flew small articles. | eagle was shivered to bits, the painted panels Here is our champion shoe blacking and were split, and the whole thing was turned upside

"Go away, then." The horses were the only things that were not

town.

best plan." Meanwhile, Jeremiah had dropped down from took the next train to New York, where they arthe tree, Solomon had washed himself in a brook rived safe and sound. where it had fallen.

Moses, the trick dog, never showed up again, suspended operations for a time at least. and Sam and Peter finally came to the conclusion Sam and Peter went into business in the city,

"Well, Petey, my son," he said, cheerily, "we that he had been so frightened that he had run and if they ever do anything worthy of notice it might as well get rid of the whole business now, away, never to return, and they never saw a sign may be recorded at some future day.

sell the horses and go on by rail."

of him, living or dead, after that.

Young Solomon is now a porter on a sleeping Sam sold his four horses to a livery stable at a car, and bids fair to own the sleeper, and the road good price, and then the survivors of the wreck as well, if he keeps on as he has begun.

persists in the belief that without him no one close at hand, and the wrecked wagon was left Sam and Peter went home, Jeremiah and Solo-would ever have heard of the famous firm of

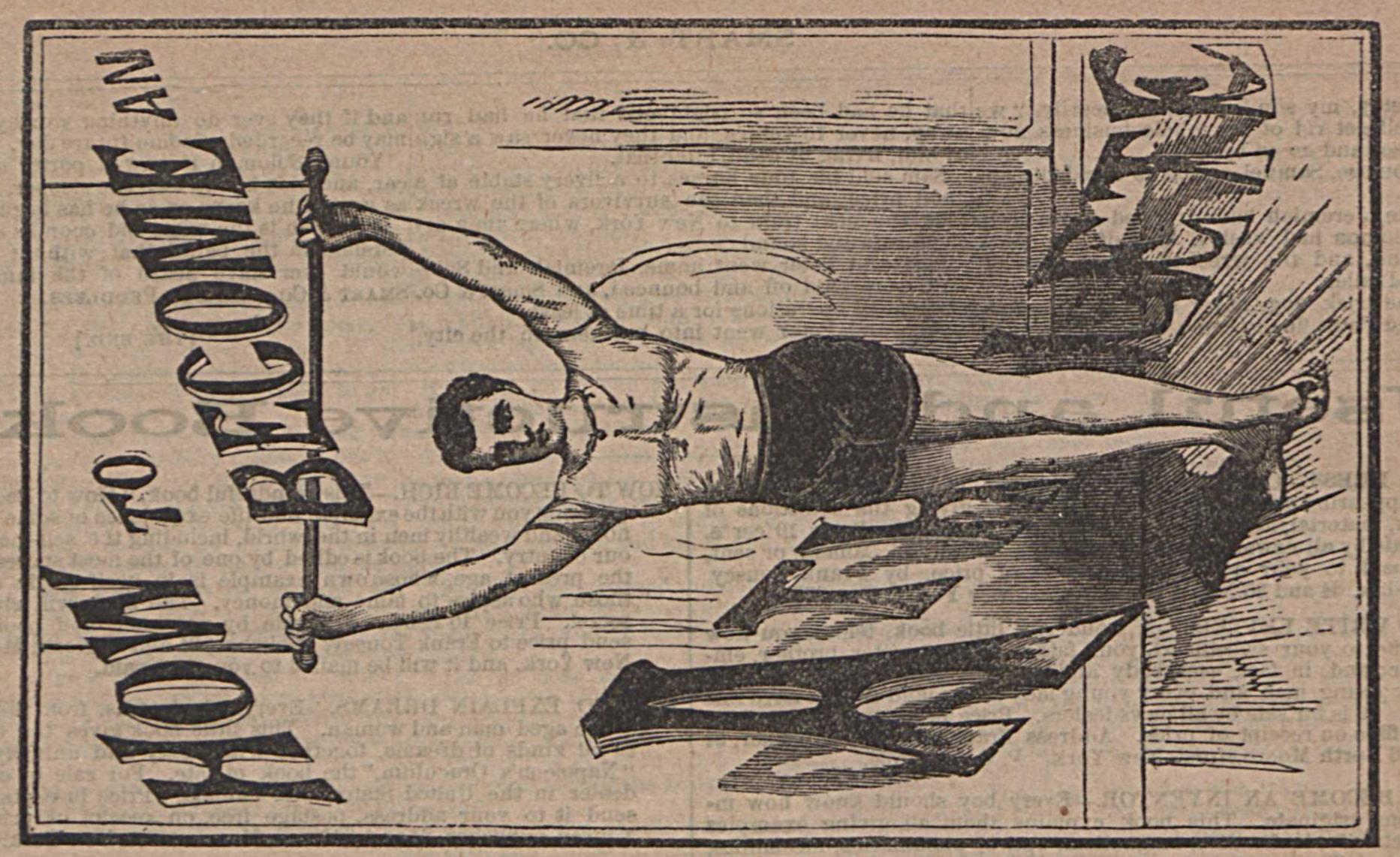
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